

Walsall & Willenhall CHRONICLE

Thursday, February 9, 2017

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WARD AND PRICE ARE RIGHT ON TARGET FOR CHARITY MATCH



Corrie star - Shane Ward

SOAP star Shayne Ward and glamour model Katie Price have been named as the managers for an upcoming charity football match at Walsall FC's Bescot Stadium.

The match will pitch the 'Smiling Saddlers' against the 'Compton Wolves'.

Corrie favourite and former X Factor winner Ward will manage Compton Wolves in the match on Saturday, May 13, which will raise money for Compton Hospice and Smile for Joel.

Price will manage the Smiling Saddlers in the fixture. The funds generated will be donated to Compton Hospice, to mark its 35th anniversary celebrations, and Smile for Joel.

The latter was named after 19-year-old Joel Richards from Wednesbury, who was

killed in the horror attack in Sousse in 2015. His uncle Adrian Evans, aged 49 and from Bilston, and grandfather Patrick Evans, aged 78, were also among 30 British tourists murdered - while Joel's younger brother Owen survived.

Smile for Joel works with Victim Support to raise money for victims of atrocities.

Soap actors and musicians will be providing the entertainment on the pitch when the celebrity football match is staged in Walsall.

'Eastenders' Jake Wood will line up with his soap rival Ward, while other celebrities taking part include Calum Best and Joe Calzaghe.

Sue Chance, head of fundraising for Compton Hospice added: "We are so excited to be

part of the Smiling Saddlers vs Compton Wolves Celebrity Football Match next year. It's the first time we have been involved in an event such this and we think it's a great way to help raise much needed funds for both Compton Hospice and Smile for Joel.

"We'd like to encourage as many people as possible to purchase a ticket and join us for a day of soccer and celeb spotting."

Tickets are available from wfcthevenue.co.uk and cost £10 for adults, £5 for children. VIP packages are also available for £35.

The event has been organised in partnership with 'Sellebrity Soccer', a charity football association which holds regular football matches at stadiums across the country, and sponsored by Tile Choice.



Manager - Katie Price

SADDLERS

Messages of support to football hero Chris

MESSAGES of support have gone out to Walsall football star Chris Marsh after it was revealed he suffered a brain haemorrhage. The 47-year-old made over 400 appearances for the club. Marsh joined Saddlers as a trainee in 1986 and won promotion in 1995 and 1999 before leaving in March 2001 - another promotion year.

Walsall's official account tweeted: "Club wish Saddlers legend & former @ntfc star Chris Marsh a speedy recovery after learning of pre Xmas brain haemorrhage #getwellsoon"

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Chris Marsh

PLANNING

Guest house set to be care home

A guest house in Walsall could become a care home under new plans. Horizon Care Education wants to turn Arden Lodge Guest House on Bloxwich Road into a home for children.

Young people up to the age of 18 would live in the home for between three and five years. They would not have physical or mental impairment, but will have been "adversely affected by circumstances and in need of a secure, stable and caring place to live."

Walsall Council planners will decide on the project later this year.

PLANNING

Wine bar go-ahead at ex-funeral parlour

A CONTROVERSIAL plan to turn a former funeral parlour into a wine bar has been given the go-ahead by Walsall councillors.

Twenty people objected to the change of use for the former Co-op Funeral Care branch in Walsall Wood Road in Aldridge, some on the grounds it would be more suited to the village centre.

Developers want to open the wine bar from 8am until 2am every day - but planning officers have said that should be limited to 9am to 11pm from Sunday to Thursday and from 9am until 11.30pm on Fridays and Saturdays. Neighbours objected on the grounds they were concerned about noise.

INSIDE

PUPILS PUMP UP THE VOLUME



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Proposed secondary would take up to 950 pupils NEW FREE SCHOOL PLAN IS REVEALED

A NEW secondary school taking in more than 950 students is being planned for Blakenall and could open in September next year, it has been revealed.

The plans have been drawn up by The Windsor Academy Trust which already runs two academies in the borough. The free school would take in pupils from Years 7 to 11 as well as 22 sixth form pupils, according to council documents. Talks are under way regarding the new school although plans have not yet been formally submitted to Walsall Council.

The proposal was outlined in a report to last night's Walsall cabinet under the council's 'five year sufficiency strategy' - a plan to manage requirements for school places across the borough over the next five years.

The Windsor Academy Trust already runs Rivers Primary Academy and the Goldsmith Primary Academy. It has laid out its vision for the new school, to be called The Blakenall School, on a website.

The trust says: "We are proposing to open a new, 11-18 Free School in the Blakenall district and will be seeking the approval from the Department for Education to open this new school in September 2018."

"Our new secondary school will form part of the government's Free School programme and will be funded directly by central government's Education Funding Agency (EFA). As part of a Multi-Academy Trust the school will be held to account for the way it spends public money by the EFA and will be subject to regular audits."

"We believe - and local parents tell us - that there is a clear need for more high quality secondary provision in an area where parental choice is severely limited in terms of access to good or outstanding secondary schools/academies. We are keen to address parental demand by building on the successful and improving KS2 out-

Report by Jordan Harris

comes in WAT's existing primary academies." Blakenall councillor Ian Robertson said: "Anything which brings more education opportunities to Blakenall and reduces the need for our children to travel outside of the area is to be welcomed. I would hope a space can be given to the trust in order for them to see through their plans."

However, a consultation with headteachers across the borough as part of the council's sufficiency strategy shows that there are concerns about the plans. The council report reads: "All of the responses received from secondary schools express concerns about the proposal by an independent sponsor to locate a 950-place secondary free school in the Blakenall area."

"These include whether there is sufficient demand in the Blakenall area of Walsall for an additional 950 place school and the potential negative impact on existing Walsall secondary schools in terms of funding, pupil numbers and teaching standards."

A spokesman for Walsall Council said: "The decision to approve a Free School application rests with the Department for Education, not with local authorities."

Hand car wash sparks protest



Councillor Diane Coughlan at the front, with New Road residents, protesting outside the car wash

FED-UP residents are calling for action against a hand car wash still operating, despite planning permission for the business being refused.

People living near the site in New Road, Willenhall, say it is a noisy neighbour and a safety hazard.

Walsall Council rejected a second application for a car wash on the land on January 31, having already turned one down in May last year, amid concerns over increased traffic and disturbance.

But the business remained open at the weekend prompting residents to urge the council to take en-

forcement action against the owner. A worker at the car wash, who would not give his name, said they would be appealing as they believed it was a suitable business for the site.

But Councillor Diane Coughlan said residents have had enough of living opposite the car wash, which has been open for around two weeks. She said: "I've been contacted by residents who don't want to live by a car wash. Planning permission has been refused and it should no longer be operating. We want people to follow the rules."



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BUDGET CUTS

Petition to save village library from axe



A CAMPAIGN has been launched to save the multi-million pound Pelsall library from closure.

Village councillor Gary Perry says 'it beggars belief' that the library, which was opened five years ago by Prince Edward, is one of nine in Walsall earmarked for closure under revised cuts by the council.

Furious residents have launched a staunch defence of the library. As well as being fairly new which was opened at vast expense to the council, Pelsall residents

argue that the library's visitor figures are the highest in the borough apart from the main library in the town centre. There are also queries over why the library was chosen for the chopping block when the council-owned building it is in, the £4m Pelsall Village Centre, will have to remain open anyway as it houses GP surgeries and the pre-school alliance.

Councillor Perry, who has served as a Pelsall councillor for nearly 19 years, has set up the petition to keep the library open and

has more than 1,000 names on it. He said: "Apart from Central Library, our visitor figures are the highest in Walsall. The council owns the building which means as it stays open they will still have to pay for gas, electric etc.

"I understand that libraries needed to be cut but for me closing Pelsall makes no sense." A public meeting took place on Tuesday and last night, Wednesday, a cabinet meeting was held which ratified the council's position, but a final decision is due at full council.

We agonised over our council cuts – chiefs

'THERE have been agonies over it... it was very difficult.'

So says Walsall Council's deputy leader Lee Jeavons after the council's revised budget plans were revealed, with hundreds of jobs and nine libraries set to go.

Council bosses have spoken up to defend the cuts which in many aspects were not as fierce as first predicted – with the future of the New Art Gallery all but secured now.

Council leader Councillor Sean Coughlan and Councillor Ian Shires, the leader of the Liberal Democrats who are in a coalition with Labour, said that the process was 'really tough' and 'not easy' as council tax goes up a further one per cent and some school crossing patrols are axed.

However seven libraries will remain open and the Leather Museum is staying put.

Councillor Jeavons said: "There have been agonies over it, quite literally agonies. Lots of very, very robust discussion. Look at some of the services we have had to adjust and change, we are talking about services for children, for vulnerable adults and services that people love like libraries. It has been difficult to do."

Councillor Coughlan added: "It has not been easy, it has been really tough. "We have only had 19 months of control of this council in 17 years so in lots of ways it was a difficult period."

The council claimed it listened to residents with more than a quarter of its original proposals being amended or scrapped. Among the changes include the council rowing back on its plans to remove school transport services for children with special education needs over-16.

But the proposals have been criticised by the Conservative group leader Councillor Mike Bird. He said: "When we had control of the council and we proposed library closures we proposed having a library within two miles of every resident – this is not the case this time.

"The proposals will lead to further isolation for elderly residents. Pelsall library only opened in the last few years at a cost of £5 million. It houses several doctors surgeries and a nursery which means the council will effectively be running the building for the NHS."

One library which has been saved is Darlaston. Councillor Doug James said: "A big thank you to the hundreds of Darlaston and Moxley residents for our petition, social media campaign, letters, attending meetings. You made the difference."

Rallying call to fight for funding



Secretary of Walsall Against Cuts Eric Frankham speaks to protesters at Walsall Council House

Walsall Council has been urged to fight against drastic funding cuts from central Government.

Walsall Against Cuts, which describes itself as a 'cross party organisation fighting to stop all cuts', says residents were 'seriously worried' after the authority announced its latest budget plans.

It held its latest meeting at The Royal Hotel on Ablewell Street, just hours after council bosses laid out its plan to save £86 million by 2020. The proposals include raising council tax by nearly five per cent, axing hundreds of jobs and nine libraries.

Originally, the council proposed to shut 15 of the borough's 16 libraries, leaving just Central Library open which would also incorporate the leather museum and local history centre.

However, six of the libraries are now to remain open, with the leather museum also not moving.

But Walsall Against Cuts believe more can be done. Speaking at the meeting, Martin Lynch, convenor of the group, said: "While obviously any reductions in cuts are to be welcomed, we are seriously worried that much of this is simply pain being put

off in some cases and we feel the council needs to be taking the fight against the situation they find themselves in to central Government."

Mr Lynch, 65, from Birchills, added: "We want the council to work with us and other councils to demand that the Government reconsider the cuts to local government funding they are making. For that to happen there needs to be a more proactive attitude and take a stand."

Members are planning to hand over a 2,000 signature petition against the cuts to council bosses.

Financial help urged on service for fallen

NEW calls for financial support for a Remembrance Day event in Walsall have been made by a councillor.

Pleas for Walsall Council to hand over more money so Remembrance Day parades can go ahead are being resisted with bosses saying the authority's decision will not change.

In December, Walsall Council's cabinet agreed to provide 30 per cent of traffic management costs, up to a cap of £1,000 per parade, for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Despite this, calls are now being made for the council to increase that provision to 50 per cent, with the average cost for organising the parades coming in at around £4,250, according to a petitioner who has collected more than 600 signatures in just over a week.

During a discussion prior to the plans being approved in December, Councillor Paul Bott, who represents the Darlaston area, asked leader Sean Coughlan if there was a possibility of including funding to help with road closures for the Moxley Remembrance Service.

Councillor Bott pointed out that the town's memorial was located near busy roads, making a two minute silence almost impossible. However, councillor Coughlan said the authority would not be contributing to closures for that area because the service in Moxley is a 'static event', not a parade.

Councillor Bott has now said if any extra money is being given out for other parades, he will go back to the council leader again over the event.

Lanes to be shut for work on M6

VITAL maintenance work is set to start on the M6 this month. Highways England is beginning structural repairs to damaged concrete and renewing the waterproofing of the elevated road structure on the northbound carriageway around junction seven for Great Barr.

Work is due to start on February 20 and is expected to last for seven weeks.

Temporary speed limits will also be put in place of 50mph on the approach and 40mph through the work area, and there will be lane closures. As part of the work, new expansion joints will also be installed on the carriageway designed to allow movement within the structure.

Project manager, Jessica Kenny said: "Leaving it alone is not an option and it would mean bigger and more disruptive roadworks in future."

MP Vaz hails work of Cancer Research

Walsall MP Valerie Vaz has hailed the work of Cancer Research UK in the Commons. She said Walsall's under 75 mortality rate for cancer was well below average. It was important Cancer Research met a target to ensure 3 in 4 people with cancer survived within 20 years.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Woman fends off man in carjack bid

A WOMAN fended off a carjacker after he ran towards her vehicle and lunged his arm through the window. The incident, which left the motorist 'extremely shaken', took place in Essington on the Burnings Road on Wednesday January 25, prompting Staffordshire Police to release an appeal for witnesses to come forward.

At around 5.45pm, the female victim was driving home in her white Kia Sportage along the A462. As she approached the traffic lights at the junction of Warstone Road and Broad Lane, she noticed a man sitting on the grass verge. Suddenly he sprinted towards her door and tried to prise it open.

The man then reached inside the half open window, searching for the handle, but the woman fought back.

At that point, a member of the public in the car behind shouted at the would-be robber who then ran away towards the general direction of Willenhall.

Young family in fire rescue drama

A MOTHER and her two young children were rescued from their flat after a fire broke out at an industrial unit next door.

Tania Caddick, aged 22, and her daughters Scarlett, four months, and Ciara, were helped out of their home on Croft Street, Willenhall, after Ms Caddick screamed for help from the bedroom window.

The blaze broke out at the unit at around 7pm on Thursday. Dean Ritchie, 38, and his partner Katie, 22, heard the terrified mother's cries and kicked a gate to her property in before helping her and the children outside.

Ms Caddick, who lives in the top floor flat with her two children and partner Louis, said: "I am so glad we are all safe but it was the scariest thing ever, I have never been so terrified in my life. Firefighters had to come up and check everything was okay with the flat."

Hundreds sign parades petition

A PETITION calling on Walsall Council to rethink funding plans for Remembrance Day parades across the borough ended with more than 750 signatures.

British Legion groups and residents are asking the authority to hand over more money so such parades can go ahead this year. The online petition ended with 789 people having signed it. But bosses have so far said the authority's decision to cap its provision at £1,000 will not change.

M5 to get 30mph limit

A 30mph speed limit will be in place on a stretch of the M5 for 18 months during a major roadworks scheme. Drivers face the prospect of huge delays as details of the scheme to repair Oldbury viaduct were revealed. The route between junctions one and two of the M5 will be affected.

Legal move on eyesore pubs after no action

THE OWNERS of two abandoned pubs in Walsall blighted by fly-tipping and travellers, will be prosecuted for not cleaning up the sites.

The owners of the Eagle and Leathern Bottle pubs, in Creswell Crescent, Bloxwich, had been handed a council order to clean up the sites last year, but the sites remain eyesores. There are still piles of rubble on the sites after demolition of the pubs started but was never finished.

Now Walsall Council is preparing a prosecution case to force the owners to take responsibility for the sites.

A report set to be discussed at a planning committee meeting tonight states that prosecution cases are being prepared against the two owners, who have failed to comply with section 215 notices issued in the past in order to get them to clean up the site.

A spokesman from Walsall Council said that 'if necessary' it would seek a resolution through the legal processes, adding that it was still trying to 'secure compliance with the Section 215 notices'.

Official documents in the council's planning committee reports states that the 'prosecution case is being prepared'. It also states under the type of action being taken against the two sites that the council was seeking 'prosecution'.

When the clean-up notice was issued at the start of last year, Walsall Council gave the owners a deadline of August 3, however an inspection in November revealed that neither had completed the job.

Health students' focus on nurses

HIGHER Education Health students at Walsall College received an insight in to the role of nurses after taking part in a conference with the Royal College of Nursing (RCN).

Paul Vaughan, regional director, and Ruth Burey, the professional learning and development facilitator at RCN, visited the college and delivered a presentation to students on key issues currently facing the nursing industry.

This included the NHS's five-year vision, with an increasing focus on prevention methods and health and social care sectors working in closer union, understanding dignity in nursing and the importance of reflective practice. The guest speakers, who both practised as nurses, also gave students an overview of their careers.

Adam opens up new sports hub

A NEW sports hub has been officially opened by Walsall FC's captain Adam Chambers. The InPower Academy, in Frederick Street, will provide fitness classes and help young people's work in surrounding areas.

Bigamist said wife had died of cancer



Michael Hardy

A BIGAMIST led a double life after telling his second wife that his previous spouse had died of cancer when in fact they were still married.

Michael Hardy told a web of lies to both Caroline Lacey, who he wed in 2014, and Joanne White, who he married in December last year. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard the 46-year-old started dating Miss White after his marriage with Miss Lacey became strained.

To conceal his infidelity from Miss Lacey - with whom he shared a home in Walsall - he claimed to have suffered an accident at work for which he needed hospital treatment and lied about attending a number of follow-up appointments.

Mr Edward Soulsby, prosecuting, said

he was actually visiting Miss White at her home in Barnes Hill, Birmingham adding that he proposed to her and on December 16 they married at a register office. Mr Soulsby said: "He named Caroline Lacey correctly but told Miss White she was his ex-wife and explained she had died about a year ago of cancer."

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard Hardy and Miss Lacey lived together in Kent before moving to Walsall sometime between 2014 and 2016. He first lied about his accident in October last year.

Miss Lacey became suspicious after seeing Barnes Hill in the search history of his Sat Nav and hearing directions to the address during phone calls while he was in his van. She drove there accompanied by her

daughter on Boxing Day to find her husband's van in which he was sitting inside with Miss White. Mr Soulsby, said: "Miss Lacey gets out of her car and asks who the woman is with him in the van. At the same time Miss White gets out and declares she is his wife and that they married recently. Miss Lacey also says she is his wife and that they married two years ago."

Hardy, of Gibbons Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham, was reported to police by Miss Lacey the following day. He admitted one charge of bigamy and on Monday was given a six-month suspended jail sentence and ordered to carry out 120 hours community service. The court heard Miss Lacey is now seeking a divorce while Miss White wants to 'make a go of it.'

Jam-busting design for junction 10 is revealed

A CONGESTION-BUSTING design to finally ease the misery of motorists at M6 junction 10 has been revealed at last.

Two new, wider bridges form part of the design - increasing the junction's number of lanes from two to four - and should be constructed by 2020.

The new design for the £64.5m scheme has been chosen by Walsall Council and Highways England to reduce congestion, increase safety and improve links for businesses in the area.

Under the plans the current roundabout, built in the 1960s will be replaced, to avoid the need for extensive maintenance.

Around 8,000 vehicles pass through the junction every hour during peak periods but the newly-built roundabout will increase its capacity to 10,500.

Improvements will also be carried out to pedestrian and cycle facilities at the junction.

The A454 Black Country Route, a vital dual carriageway which connects Walsall to Wolverhampton will be widened from Junction 10 to the Bentley Mill Way bridge, with enhancements made to the Wolverhampton Road and Bloxwich Lane junction.

Members of the public can see the design in person at three events this month. These will take place at the Village Hotel on February 15, from 2pm to 8pm, at the Holiday Inn from 12pm to 4pm on February 20 and on February 25 from 11am to 2pm at Boundary Mill.

Money

Councillor Lee Jeavons, deputy leader and portfolio holder for transport and regeneration, said: "Of the two, this chosen design is seen as the most effective at reducing congestion, offers the best value for money and will improve safety for all road users."

The project is being jointly funded by Highways England and Walsall Council via the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership.

David Reed, of Highways England, said: "Working in partnership we have developed a design that will deliver more reliable journey times and, at the same time, provide a significant boost to the Midlands economy."

Subject to receiving planning permission and completing further preparatory work, construction is expected to start on site late 2018 and be completed in around two years.



How the new junction 10 island of the M6 will look with the new four-lane bridges helping ease congestion

£30,000 boost to kick off upgrade

DARLASTON Town FC have been awarded more than £30,000 to upgrade their Bentley Leisure Pavilion ground.

The club, which is known as Darlaston Town (1874) FC, has been given the money by Biffa as part of Landfill Communities Fund.

A total of £33,000 has been awarded, which the club will put towards upgrading the heating system in the ground. The heating system has not been touched since

the ground was opened more than 60 years ago.

Work is likely to begin in April or May and will be finished by the end of May.

Neil Chambers, the chairman of the club, said: "This is fantastic news and is another major step forward in the club's progress. When we reformed in 2013 the Directors and Committee set a five-year plan to develop the club both on and off the field. We are making significant

progress in achieving that plan and will continue to improve the facilities at Bentley Leisure Pavilion.

"When we signed the 25-year lease for Bentley Leisure Pavilion in September 2015 the committee and directors also agreed an improvement plan for the club house and dressing rooms. We have already spent more than £20,000 improving the dressing rooms and club house and have further improvement plans in the pipeline."

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



WORD of Mouth (Radio 4) came from Birmingham and explained how the Midland expression blarting, meaning to cry, came from the word 'bleating. What it didn't explain was the expression an old Brummie mate of mine would use to describe someone who was upset: "She was blartin' like Friday." Why Friday? Any ideas?

THE most fascinating aspect about the online petition against a state visit for Donald Trump is the geographical breakdown. The areas with the highest rates of people signing the petition are London, Cambridge, Oxford, Glasgow and Edinburgh – pretty much identical to the results of last June's referendum on the European Union. If you're against Trump, you may well be against Brexit. And you're probably in a minority.

THE strangest thing about Donald Trump's "Muslim ban" is not that it's racist or Islamophobic but that it is so stupid. Most US terrorism is committed by home-grown loonies who either have a US passport or none at all. Trying to keep out terrorists by banning visitors from certain countries is about as useful as a chocolate musket at the Alamo.

WE all make mistakes. There was no shame in a misspelt BBC News commentary which popped up on our screens this week referring to "grievous bodily harm." But it was a little alarming that "grievous" was on screen for at least two hours and no-one in BBC News either noticed or corrected it.



THIS is probably not the right health message to take from the death of John Hurt, as we try hard to stick to two or three units of alcohol per day, plus a booze-free day every week. But we are told that at his worst, Hurt was slinging seven bottles of wine a night down his neck. He still made it to 77.

YOU know how it is. Your car lets you down and you start looking at the used-car ads. I found a nice little runner which seemed excellent in all respects, except the number plate. It begins with an N, has an 0 in the middle and ends NCE. You see the problem?

AND talking of booze, farewell to our Christmas cake. Mrs Rhodes's 2016 masterpiece was steeped in rum and spent the final weeks of its life fermenting merrily in the cake tin. I swear the last few slices were slightly fizzy and left the mouth numb, like a dentist's injection. The trouble with such epic cakes is that you know, no matter how hard you try to repeat the recipe, it will never be the same again. As Richard Harris told us.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Burglar threw stolen jewellery away

A BURGLAR who stole jewellery from a neighbour before throwing the items away because he couldn't sell them has been given a suspended sentence.

Adam Follows, of Sandbank Road, Bloxwich, was living at Dolphin House, Goscote, when he broke into another flat, stealing Nike Air Max trainers, a silver necklace and bracelet on September 22 last year.

After admitting his crime to police, Follows, aged 35, said he had stolen the items to sell in order to get enough money to leave Dolphin House, where he said it was 'too easy' for him to purchase drugs after a number of years of sobriety.

He then admitted selling the trainers to a stranger on the street but said he discarded the jewellery as he was unable to sell it. Follows,

who has 30 convictions to his name, mostly involving cases of theft, pleaded guilty at Walsall Magistrates Court to one charge of burglary at Walsall Magistrates Court on October 21, 2016.

He was sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court on February 1, where he was given a 12-month prison sentence suspended for two years, a one year community order, a

20-hour rehabilitation requirement, a curfew preventing him from leaving home between 9pm and 6am for two months and a requirement to carry out 50 hours unpaid work.

Defending Follows, Mr David Swinnerton said: "Since this happened he has in fact managed to move away, get clean from drugs and get himself a job. He has told me today that he regrets his error."

Jail extended for thug who sliced ex's ear off

A CRUEL thug who sliced off most of his ex-wife's ear during a horrendous attack in front of their children has had his jail term increased by top judges.

Patrick Reilly, aged 37, attacked Kathleen Reilly in Bloxwich, because she had left him and he wanted to make sure no man would ever 'look at her again'. Reilly, of Rugby Close, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, was jailed for nine years at Wolverhampton Crown Court on December 12. But the Solicitor-General Robert Buckland QC said his sentence was too lenient and senior judges at London's Court of Appeal agreed, increasing the term to 14 years.

Reilly was helped by his sister Deborah Corcoran, 45, of Stone Close, Ashby, and her daughter, Kelly Corcoran, 26, of Vicarage Road, Whitehall, Bristol. Mrs Reilly had left her husband prior to the attack on April 4 last year, Lady Justice Sharp told the court. The trio set out to cause serious injury to her as 'she would not take her husband back and had brought shame upon the family'.

They gained access to her home by 'subterfuge' and the two women grabbed her by the hair, pulled her into the lounge and pinned her to the floor.

Children

They shouted insults at her and said Reilly should never have married her and she deserved everything she was going to get. Reilly punched his ex-wife to the face and chest. He then picked her up by her hair and sliced off most of her ear 'to make sure no man would look at her again'. The assault took place in front of the victim's three young children. He brandished the flick knife at the children and told them to 'shut up', before slicing off their mother's ear.

One of the children put the ear on ice after the attackers left but 'unfortunately it proved impossible to reattach', said the judge. Extensive reconstructive surgery and skin grafts will be required to rebuild Mrs Reilly's ear.

By David Cosgrove

All three attackers were convicted of wounding with intent. Deborah Corcoran got six years, while her daughter got five. Reilly was also convicted of possession of a bladed article and threatening to commit criminal damage. He had 31 previous convictions for 98 crimes, the court heard.

Jake Hallam, for the Solicitor-General, argued that all three should have received much tougher sentences. It was a 'profoundly serious offence' and their jail terms did not reflect this, he argued. James Beck, for Reilly, argued that his jail term was 'lenient' but not 'unduly lenient'. Lee Masters, for Deborah Corcoran, agreed and said she was 'in thrall' to her brother. He also pointed to her age, lack of relevant convictions, remorse and being primary carer for her 12-year-old son.

Graham Henson, for Kelly Corcoran, said she had been 'recruited late in the day' and had made 'suicide attempts'.

The judge, Lady Justice Sharp, who was sitting with Mr Justice Haddon-Cave and Judge Paul Batt QC, ruled that Reilly and Deborah Corcoran's jail terms were 'unduly lenient'.

She increased Reilly's jail term from nine to 14 years. Deborah Corcoran's term went up from six to eight years. While Kelly Corcoran's five-year jail term could have been tougher, it was not unduly lenient, concluded the judge.

Appeal to pay for Josie's op



Josie the cat, with student vet nurse Kat Fairclough, of Willenhall

AN appeal has been launched to help pay for a stray cat's crucial operation who is likely to lose an eye. Josie was taken in by Kats Cradle Cat Rescue three months ago after being found pregnant in Willenhall.

The cat, believed to be between two and three-years-old, was also found with a huge lump on the top of her head. Once the abscess popped it was so deep her skull could be seen. After she gave birth to six kittens, her situation deteriorated, with the abscess forming on her head again.

An unsuccessful spell of antibiotics meant an x-ray and subsequent operation

followed, again with the abscess returning. Debbie Brookes-Hemans, owner of Kats Cradle in Coven, said: "The vet found a pocket at the back of her eye after the x-ray. The vet thinks it came from a nasty bite from a cat and it's also affecting her sinus. Kats Cradle relies exclusively on public donations and the bill has already reached more than £500 for Josie.

To make donations for Josie, send a cheque to Kats Cradle via 20 Parsons Croft, Coven WV9 5AR, email donations to emjo2014@outlook.com or call Debbie on 07944 105 033.

Winnick says Green should not keep his knighthood

WALSALL MP David Winnick has said it is 'remarkable' that it may take years before a decision is made over whether BHS boss Sir Philip Green will keep his knighthood.

The retailer collapsed and went into administration in April 2016 affecting more than 11,000 workers throughout the country. At the Walsall town centre's Park Street branch, 36 people lost their jobs.

In an emotional farewell, staff signed each other's shirts, reflected on fond memories and also vented their anger at the demise of a high street stalwart on closing day. Mr Winnick, MP for Walsall North, brought up the topic of an investigation into whether Sir Philip should keep his knighthood during a conversation with Prime Minister Theresa May during Prime Minister's Questions.

He said: "How will the thousands of people who lost their jobs at British Home Stores feel about the fact that it may take years before the case of Philip Green, the totally discredited and disgraced businessperson, results in his knighthood being taken away or otherwise?"

"People lose their jobs and suffer all the consequences, but this man keeps his billions and his knighthood."

In response Prime Minister Theresa May said that an independent committee would decide on the knighthood issue. August 8 marked the end of the road for the Walsall branch, while Wolverhampton's Dudley Street branch closed the following Wednesday.

Choreography hopefuls' boost

DANCERS looking to develop a career as a choreographer are in line for support through a new award. DanceXchange, the Midlands-based dance house has announced the inaugural dx Choreography Award to support artists at an early stage of their choreographic career.

As part of DanceXchange's new Artist Development programme, which will be launched this spring, the award will support the practice of up to eight early-career artists each year who are based, living or working in the Midlands.

The dx Choreography Award is an ongoing programme for artists with the ambition to grow and further develop their practice. Further details are available by visiting www.dancexchange.org.uk

Children's care home on cards under plans

PLANS have been submitted to transform a guesthouse into a care home for children.

Arden Lodge on Bloxwich Road will become a place for children in care to stay for between three and five years at a time, under the plans.

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Bloom hope for village to represent the region

ALDRIDGE has been selected to represent the Heart of England region in the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Britain in Bloom UK Finals 2017.

The Walsall village will join 75 other finalists competing to be crowned one of the cleanest, greenest and most beautiful places in the UK. The Heart of England finalists were chosen for their commitment to environmental responsibility, their high levels of community participation and their outstanding gardening achievements.

Between them, the four groups will plant hundreds of thousands of bulbs, seasonal plants, shrubs and trees across the region, transforming hard grey areas into green spaces that benefit both the community and the environment.

In August, the finalists will lead RHS Britain in Bloom judges on a tour of their areas as they bid to win a top award. The winners will be announced at the Britain in Bloom awards ceremony in Llandudno, North Wales, on October 27.

A number of special awards that recognise excellence in a particular area, be that protecting the local environment, getting young people involved in gardening, or overcoming adversity such as flooding or vandalism, will also be up for grabs.

Now in its 53rd year, Britain in Bloom has evolved into a UK-wide campaign that brings communities together while promoting the environmental and health and wellbeing benefits of gardening.

A&E performance drops to new lows

A&E performance at Walsall Manor Hospital plummeted to new lows in December, the latest figures have revealed.

The under pressure department was escalated to its highest level of demand – level 4 – for one day during the month it has also emerged.

On average during the month less than one in four patients – 21 per cent – were dealt with in the required four-hour target.

At its worst that proportion fell to nearly one in three – 31 per cent.

There were more than 6,200 emergency attendances in December while more than 2,800 of those were via an ambulance – higher than the previous two months.

Bosses have pointed to the increase in ambulances as one of the main reasons for the increased pressure.

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust's governing body discussed the latest figures further last Thursday at its monthly meeting.

A report states: "There were over 90 ambulance arrivals to the department on 21 days during the month, an increase compared to November (15) and over 100 ambulance arrivals on eight days compared to nine days in November."

GP surgery told to improve by inspectors



Park View Centre, in Brownhills

A BROWNHILLS GP surgery with more than 3,000 patients has been told to improve by health bosses. Parkside Medical Practice, at the Park View Centre in Chester Road North, has been rated as 'requires improvement'.

Care Quality Commission inspectors found the practice's safety, effectiveness and leadership all needed to improve. Concerns were raised over reporting of monitoring high risk medicines and investigations into incidents not being 'thorough' enough.

A report prepared by inspectors

after they visited the surgery on October 18 last year said: "Staff understood and fulfilled their responsibilities to raise concerns, and to report incidents and near misses."

However, reviews and investigations were not thorough enough. Some completed incident recording forms did not demonstrate that people were told about any actions to improve processes to prevent the same thing happening again.

"Some risks to patients were assessed and well-managed. However, systems for managing patient safety

alerts, recording the monitoring of high risk medicines; checking clinicians' registrations and indemnity cover, nurse's professional memberships and risk assessing staff who had not receive appropriate immunity status checks were not well managed."

Inspectors did find the practice's responsiveness and its care towards patients to be good, with particular praise given to the information provided by the practice as it was 'easy to understand and accessible'. The practice was contacted but was unavailable for comment.

Friends raise £100,000 for new gamma camera

A TEAM of hospital volunteers have made a £100,000 donation towards a new camera that can detect cancerous tumours and a host of other medical problems.

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, which runs Walsall Manor Hospital, needs to replace its current gamma camera as it is outdated.

The replacement camera, together with the associated building work, is costing in excess of £650,000. Volunteers from the League of Friends shop at the hospital have now handed over the bumper sum.

Proceeds from items sold in the League of Friends shops in the hospital have helped buy medical equipment in the past.

More than £555,000 has been raised over the last eight years alone. The new gamma camera will improve image quality and diagnosis. It will also offer an improved service to patients. Once installed, it will be possible to perform modern examinations.

Patients who currently have to travel to other hospitals for their examinations will be able to go to Walsall instead of travelling further afield. League of Friends chair Janet Hodson said the camera was a vital piece of equipment for the hospital.

Income

"We understand the gamma camera is something that the hospital clearly really needs," she said. "We wish we could have given more, but every bit helps. The money we raise comes from the income generated through our shops."

"We have one shop by maternity and another by ward 29. It's good for our customers and supporters to see where their donations go."

"We regularly support the trust in this way," Richard Kirby, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust chief executive, said: "On behalf of all of our patients who will benefit from this important new equipment I would like to thank the League of Friends for their significant contribution."

"They are a fantastic support to the trust and have raised huge sums of money for us over a number of years. The trust's vision for 2020 is to become your partners for first-class integrated care. Our existing gamma camera was installed a decade ago. The new one will improve our patients' experience, improve the range of scans we can offer locally and help speed up our treatment pathways."

Young DJs in a spin after opening new radio station



Beacon Primary School Pupils Yuheng Cai and Ellie Brit, both aged 11

PUPILS are on the way to becoming star DJs after their school officially opened its new radio station.

Radio Fanal is now on air daily at Beacon Primary School in Davis Road, Wilenhall after nearly £10,000 was secured from the Big Lottery Fund.

The station was officially opened by Free Radio's breakfast show hosts Jo and Sparky, who gave their professional advice on what children should do on air.

The school's headteacher Paul Drew said: "They were great."

"They did a bit of a live broadcast on the radio. They said when the children are trained they want to come back."

Equipment

"They said it was all about witty banter in front of the microphone."

"We will use the equipment for our summer fete and our Christmas fetes."

Children listen to the radio when they come into school and times tables are broadcast through the school's 22 classrooms, corridors and its playground.

The school's parent teacher association was awarded £9,848 by the Big Lottery Fund through the Awards for All programme.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Eyesores action call by councillor

A COUNCILLOR has said that landowners who don't comply with council regulations should be addressed 'aggressively' in order to get the best results for residents.



Councillor Ian Shires, who represents Willenhall North, has said that landowners of eyesore buildings need to meet Walsall Council half way to ensure they don't 'blight' areas.

He said: "Landowners need to step up to the plate. Sites that aren't maintained can become an eyesore and a blight on an area. As a council we do all we can to help developers where it is in the best interests of the local area, but it takes two to tango."

Variety show £900 boost for charity

ALMOST £900 was raised for Heartcare Walsall following a venture with Multiple Sclerosis Black Country.

The funds were raised following a variety show which was held last year.

Andy Brown, spokesman for the MS Society, said: "It was a pleasure to present the money to Heartcare Walsall. As a charity we have worked alongside the fundraiser Rina Guddu before when former councillor Pete Smith was Walsall Mayor. We were both two of the Mayor's chosen charities at the time."

Andy said that following his own recent cardiac problems he wanted to help the heartcare charity.

Upgraded post office to reopen

A MODERNISED post office will be opened later this month in Leamore. Leamore Post Office, at 592 Bloxwich Road, will reopen on Thursday, February 23 following a refurbishment.

From then Post Office services will be open from 8.30am until 6pm on Mondays and Tuesdays and between 9am and 6pm from Wednesdays to Saturdays. The branch will shut for refurbishment from 5.30pm on Monday, February 13.

Post Offices which can be used during its closure include Blakenall Post Office and Bloxwich Post Office.

Health trust on the hunt for relatives

A HEALTHCARE trust is searching for the next of kin of three patients.

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust wants to locate the family of Colin Sanderson, from Walsall, who was born in 1943, Kathleen Coley, from Darlaston, born in 1937 and Francis Jones of Walsall, born in 1938.

If you are related to any of these patients please contact Julie Venables at General Office, Walsall Manor Hospital on 01922 721172 ext 4637.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Slippers at school is a step too far

THE headmistress of a school in Derbyshire has come up with a, ahem, unconventional approach to school uniform.

Emma Titchener is encouraging youngsters to wear slippers in the classroom, saying it makes them more relaxed.

Yeah I bet it does. What next? Novelty onesies?

Actually, having seen the pictures of Findern Primary School, that wouldn't come as a total surprise. It certainly appears to have a laid-back approach to education.

One of the photos shows a couple of children relaxing on a bright-red sofa. Another shows a teacher in furry footwear sat in front of a giant flat-screen telly. It looks more like a slightly tacky health spa than a place of learning.

Now I don't suppose it ever occurred to Mrs Titchener, but in a few years' time it will fall to the same children's teachers at secondary school to persuade them to dress smartly, and convince them that slobbing around in slippers will not be acceptable in the workplace.

Perhaps it is all part of a cunning plan, the hope being that by the time teenage rebellion sets in, they will all angrily insist on shiny black brogues instead.

A study by Bournemouth University says a casual approach to footwear also reduces bullying. Hmm, forgive my scepticism, but not sure that would work in the Black Country.

Still, it probably hurts a lot less when they kick one another's heads in.

□□□

RATIONING is back, well sort of. Due to inclement conditions in southern Europe, Tesco has restricted its customers to a maximum of three iceberg lettuces each.

However will we manage? Now I thought iceberg was a nasty alcohol-free wine which I once bought by accident when I was 17. Can't tell you how impressed my friends waiting outside the off-licence were.

But it appears that a touch of frost in Spain means some of us will have to go a few weeks without flavourless, watery leaves.

And just as everybody felt the need to queue for five hours at Don Miller's when the bakers went on strike in the late 70s – going a couple of days without toast was unthinkable, wasn't it? – you can bet that somewhere there will be reports of people brawling over who has the last salad.

It reminds me a bit of the episode of Open All Hours, when Arkwright found himself lumbered with a job lot of Jamaican ginger cake.

So he limited sales to one loaf per customer, and everyone was clamouring for it.



Lee eventually got the picture he wanted at Mount Olympus



Lee in Latvia, the highest point is 90m less than the Wrekin



Lee seen at the highest point in the gardens at Vatican City

Roofer Lee hitting the heights across globe

Lee Humpries is on target to reach 100 highest points in countries across the globe.
HEATHER LARGE reports

MOUNTAIN climber and intrepid traveller Lee Humpries is a man on a mission as he continues his quest to stand on the highest point in 100 different countries.

The 34-year-old, from Bilston, is travelling across Europe, Africa, South America and Asia as part of his challenge.

So far he has crossed 40 off his list and scaled Mount Olympus in Cyprus, Har Meron in Israel and Gaizinkalns in Latvia in recent months.

Self-employed roofer Lee has set himself the target of reaching another 20 by the end of 2017 with the aim of getting to 100 by 2019.

His dedication to his challenge was shown in Cyprus where he faced a few hurdles in achieving his goal of climbing Mount Olympus.

Summit

"I could see the Starbrook wide field telescope on the summit and the RAF Troodos military compound accompanied with several signs showing a camera with a cross through it," he said.

"As with other military compounds, I was aware of the photography issue but it does conflict at times with me taking a photo on the high point or highest legal point.

"I pushed on past two small manned outposts and heading briskly towards the main gates. By this point I had already taken my camera out and took a super fast selfie.

"I went to take another and a heard a man shout 'Oi no photographs' in a very British



Gaizinkalns, which at 312 metres above sea level is the highest point in Latvia

voice. I turned around as my back was to the compound and said no problem and that I was climbing to the highest point in 100 countries, and would take a photo of me and the view not the facility.

"I continued back down the path but I wasn't satisfied. I stopped and thought of

other pictures I had seen showing people closer to the summit.

"I planned to head back up to the top but to the opposite side of the military facility.

"There was a ski slope and another small manned box but this time unoccupied.

"I made my move and quickly jogged to the

fence close to the summit where I had seen the other photos taken."

His recent travels have included a trip to Vatican City in Rome, a place where he had to visit two sites to ensure he was at the highest point – and where he found patience was also key to his success.

"The Vatican lies entirely within Rome and is the world's smallest sovereign state in terms of size and population.

"The highest natural point lies in the Vatican gardens which are only accessible as part of a group tour.

"There is also a discrepancy regarding which is the actual higher point out of two areas within the gardens, so I really needed to go to both.

"There are a lot of variables when on a guided tour that I had no control over and on several occasions nearly decided to quickly slip away from the group as we passed very close to the high points before continuing on.

Elbrus

"Thankfully the tour guide was thorough and took in the Vatican radio station and other high points, so I was able to take photos."

Among the high points on the agenda for the year are Suur Munamägi, the highest peak in Estonia at 1,043ft, Balanesti in Moldova, which stands at 1,410ft, and the 1,130 ft high Hara Dzaryzhynskaya in Belarus.

He is also planning a trip to Mount Elbrus in Russia, Europe's highest peak, as well as Halti in Finland, Fan Si Pan in Vietnam and Halla-San in South Korea.

During his adventures around the world he has had to deal with high temperatures, driving rain and even military gunfire in Croatia when he went to climb Dinara.

He has also visited Kekes in Hungary, Dingli Cliffs in Malta and Mount Titano in San Marino.

To follow Lee's adventures visit www.100countryhighpoints.com or follow him on Twitter.

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Unions must come up to date and resolve disputes around the table

ANDREW Scattergood's letter (January 6) castigates Nigel Hastilow's article about industrial action. Whilst I admit that I do not always agree with what Nigel writes, I would defend his right to hold his own opinions.

Andrew's letter illustrates a common trait among those with left wing sentiments in that they think that only their opinion count. This is well illustrated if you look to present and previous socialist regimes where any opposing views lead you to a Gulag, prison or worse. As a retired octogenarian, with no political affiliations but a keen interest in history, I would suggest that Andrew comes to terms with the fact that this

is the 21st century, a time of massive change which affects us all. Banks are closing, with most people now using the internet, 'snail post' has also been similarly affected. Whilst I do not claim to be an academic, I do try to use the method of a good historian observing all sides of any issue without prejudice.

The striking drivers are some of the best paid workers in the industry, and if safety is the problem why is it that the door system is used in many other countries without problems? Of course unions use chosen times to their advantage and they always give the reply that heavy-handed teachers used to give to children - "This hurts

me more than it hurts you!" My late father, who was also non-political, used to say 'management and union should be shut in a room, fed and watered, but not allowed out until an agreement had been made'. This is a truism as all agreements require a degree of compromise.

I am not anti-union and agree with Andrew that they have accomplished many admirable rights for workers but they need to try to appreciate that the best way to resolve a dispute is around a table and not walk out in a sulk if they do not achieve all that they want.

JOHN CHAMBERLAIN
Great Barr

It's begging bowl time after Brexit

I AM a proud Remainer. Long before Gorbachev I was telling sceptical business colleagues that the USSR would eventually stop being truly communist. Eleven years ago I was emailing my steel company directors telling them to upgrade our products because the Chinese economy would eventually stall and they would be looking for places to offload their surplus.

Now let me tell you what Brexit will bring. Loss of jobs because the new areas we want to sell to are too far away to service properly from here; particularly for small companies.

The EU will slowly get rid of us; of course they will make it as painful as possible. Once this is done they will get their act together and become the most advanced group of countries in the world while we, minus Scotland, get out our begging bowl and become the world's laughing stock.

ROGER WATTS
Walsall

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Walsall Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

walsall.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Birth rate has to be future consideration

IN response to David Steele, he refers to Cannock Chase on a summer weekend as a place of solitude. On summer weekends the Chase teems with walkers, runners and mountain bikers and is just the rural venue I would quote to prove the opposite. Working as a Chase volunteer I see the effects of overuse. A recent decade has seen a population increase of five million, with an annual increase of nearly a half million we are heading for 70 million and beyond. Before our eyes it is a force powerful enough to rewrite planning law, redefine the greenbelt, ignore conservationists and ride roughshod over the wishes and aspirations of a huge swathe of the British people.

David's view typifies the selfishness of the human race that it has a right to increase regardless of the effects it is having on other species, environments and indeed its own future generations. The only answer to the housing crisis, and to many other problems, is a population policy. It would include sustainable overall immigration and encouragement of a birth rate dependent not upon what the individual can afford but what the Earth can sustain. Has the Green Party got the guts to campaign for this?

KEITH WATKINS
Walsall

Rotary in thank you for support

ON behalf of the members of the Rotary Club of Willenhall, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who supported the various fundraising and other activities.

These included our two collections at the Boundary Mill Store at Bentley during the weekends of December 5 and 6, and January 14 and 15.

Our Tree of Light in Morrison's Store in Willenhall during December, and our Santa Sleigh runs in and around Willenhall, again during three weekends in December. We also received superb support for our annual Christmas Carol Concert at the Parish Council of St Giles on December 7 last year.

The total amount raised as a result of these activities was over £2,800 which was a tremendous effort from members of the public in these difficult times.

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Recycling rates well below Defra targets

RECYCLING rates in the Black Country are well below targets set by the Government for three years' time.

Figures have been published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, showing the amount of waste reused or recycled in Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton in 2015-16.

They reveal Dudley as the worst, with just 38.5 per cent of household waste recycled. In the borough, households left 394 kg of waste for collection per person each year.

The Government has set a 50 per cent household waste recycling waste by 2020.

Councils could be punished with fines if they fail to meet the target.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "Those who do recycle in the borough do so really well. But we need to get the message out and put incentives to get other people recycling."

Information

"We don't co-mingle our waste so what we get is good, clear waste which can be used to make other products, such as plastic bottles that are used to make fleece."

"We have been handing out literature on this and there is a lot of information on our website which I would encourage people to look at."

"Bit by bit we hope to reach the target." The council was followed by Wolverhampton, where 39.5 per cent of waste was recycled, where households left 473.9 kg of waste. In Sandwell, 40.9 per cent of household waste collected was recycled, in Walsall 41.7 per cent of waste was recycled. The story was different in Staffordshire, where the county council recycled 50.3 per cent of household waste collected.

Environment chief, Councillor Gill Heath said: "It is something we are very proud of."

Sukhy's pride at making list



Sukhy Lally, the information centre co-ordinator for Walsall Manor's palliative care and in a list of the top 350 Sikh women in the country

A WORKER at Walsall Manor Hospital has spoken of her pride at making it onto a list celebrating the achievements of Sikh women through history.

Sukhy Lally, information centre co-ordinator at the hospital's palliative care centre, made it on to the Sikh Network's #350SikhWomen list this week, put together in honour of the 350th birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, who is the 10th guru of the Sikh faith.

The list celebrates the achievements and successes of Sikh women through history and in re-

cent times and is an opportunity to acknowledge women and all that they do.

Sukhy, aged 44, who has worked for Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust for 15 years ensuring that patients who are palliative, end of life, or living with cancer and their carers and families have information and support, said: "I had been following the list with interest, but I was shocked when my Twitter started to get really busy and I found out I was actually on the list myself."

"My colleagues and friends were all congratulating me."

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Dozens on course to train for nursing role

MORE than 100 old-style auxiliary nurses will be trained up to work across the Black Country and Staffordshire when a new course is launched later this month.

The group, who will study at the University of Wolverhampton, are among the first wave of trainees in the UK following the Government's announcement a year ago on the creation of a new nursing support role.

To be known as nursing associates, they will work alongside healthcare support workers and qualified nurses focusing on patient care. The move is part of a wider plan to diversify and expand the NHS workforce.

The role aims to bridge the gap between healthcare workers and registered nurses, enabling nurses to spend more time on clinical duties and take more of a lead in decisions about patient care.

Partnership

Eleven test sites were chosen by Health Education England to deliver the first wave of training. The University of Wolverhampton's bid was the only one in the West Midlands. Led by Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, the partnership with the university covers a wide area including Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and West Birmingham, Walsall and Staffordshire.

A second batch of trainees will start a new course in April. Students will be given experience in a range of healthcare settings over two years as they work towards a Foundation Degree (Sci) Nursing Associate. Linda Pasca, associate director of nursing at the Walsall NHS trust, said: "We are very excited and privileged to lead one of the 11 national test sites and it is a great opportunity to shape the future of nursing."

Artist Idris back home



Walsall-born renowned artist Idris Khan who is showing his work

THE first major exhibition of former Express & Star paper-boy-turned-artist Idris Khan has opened in his home town of Walsall.

Idris, who still has family in the area, has produced an exhibition called A World Within, which runs until May 7.

Mr Khan, who now lives in London, said: "This is a selection of the last 12 years of work. I left Walsall when I was 19 and did my foundation degree at Walsall College."

"I still have family here - my father and my brother still live here and my sister lives in Birmingham."

"It's amazing that after this long, this is my first UK big museum exhibition. It's great to bring all this work back and show what I've done

over this time. I remember when this gallery opened in 2000 and being here. At that time I had no idea how my career was going to develop and thinking: 'oh my god, maybe I could have a show here.'

"That's what I aspired to do - to have museum shows. And now it's happening, it's amazing."

Mr Khan attended Park Hall Primary School and Barr Beacon School before Walsall College. From there, he graduated from the University of Derby and completed a Master's degree at the Royal College of Art in London in 2004.

Mr Khan will also talk about his work at an event on March 23 at 6.30pm. Tickets are £3 and booking is essential. Ring 01922 654400.

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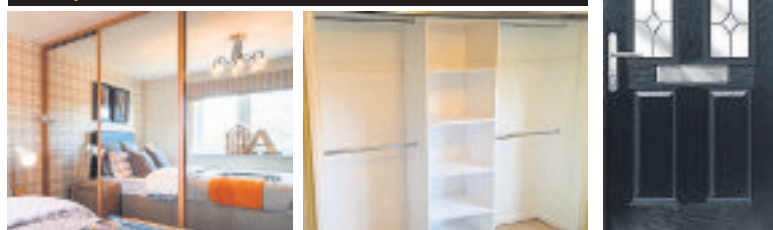


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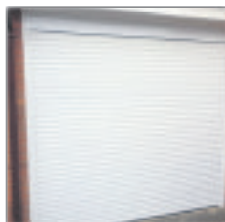
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Silver Thread Tapestries tour is all sewn up now

WALSALL'S Silver Thread tapestries are to tour the West Midlands.

An army of volunteers created the 11 unique tapestries which represent the six towns and other areas in Walsall last year.

Up until last week the tapestries were on display at the New Art Gallery in the town centre but they are now on the move, it was then put on display in St Matthews Church as part of Blue Coat Arts Festival which features art work by the children and Young people from all 3 Blue Coat Schools.

After that they will then move to various locations around the borough before being displayed at the NEC Sewing for Pleasure Show between March 17 and 19.

Commemorative postcards depicting each of the tapestries will be available to buy.

Famous

To help decide what to feature on the tapestries, workshops were held around the borough in early 2016 and attended by local community groups, history groups, and individuals with an interest in local culture and history.

Each area of the borough had its own story to tell, whether it be the Pelsall poppies, meeting under the clock in Willenhall market place or the excitement when Cilla Black visited Walsall for the first Blind Date wedding in 1991, involving the then Sue Middleton of Pelsall.

The tapestries also tell the story of famous faces from Walsall, including paralympian Ellie Simmonds, Slade star Noddy Holder, musician Goldie, actress Meera Syal and Judas Priest lead singer Rob Halford. Once the content was decided, Midlands artist Hunt Emerson, famous for being an artist on the Beano comic, created the designs for the 11 tapestries.



Different aspects of Walsall depicted in one of the tapestries on display

The call was then put out to local people, whether experienced in tapestry work or not, to come forward to take part in the project.

Around 100 experienced volunteers worked hard on the project for around ten months, with a further 100 playing a smaller part. Each of the 11 tapestries are the result of around 2,000 hours of work.

Councillor Julie Fitzpatrick, the portfolio holder for community, leisure and culture, said: "The tapestries take your breath away – they're absolutely stunning. The volunteers have really done Walsall proud."

"Apart from creating this wonderful legacy for Walsall, what's lovely is the friendships made during the sewing, which will continue going forwards."



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Sad owner Trisha Uccellini with stock which is being sold off at half price



Fleetwood Mac guitarist Peter Green



Trisha Uccellini with Gabrielle Drake, sister of singer Nick Drake



Wizzard frontman Roy Wood



Trisha Uccellini with her treasure trove of items

It's vintage finish for costume drama

A POPULAR clothes shop, frequented by rock-world royalty, is due to close its doors after 43 years.

Trisha's Vintage Clothing in Wolverhampton has been the must-go-to shop for musicians appearing at the Civic Hall.

Customers calling in for a leather jacket or faux fur waistcoat might well find Roy Wood or Motorhead's Lemmy mooching through the same rails. At the helm of the tiny emporium for all that time has been the eternally fabulous Trisha Uccellini, still a rock chick.

Despite being past retirement age, she is shutting shop not out of choice but to be with her son Marco a website designer who has been diagnosed with a serious illness.

The location in Blossoms Fold, off Darlington Street, was perfect for such a business but its proximity to the Civic was merely a happy accident, it turns out.

"I was very choosy about the location," says Trisha. "It had to be

MEMORY LANE

By Marion Brennan

in one of Wolverhampton's lovely Victorian folds. It seemed to be in keeping with the vintage theme, although when I started out, I was selling all my own designs with only the odd bit of Victoriana."

That was in January 1974 and actress Gabrielle Drake, who was appearing in panto at The Grand with Trisha's musician husband Georgio, performed the official opening.

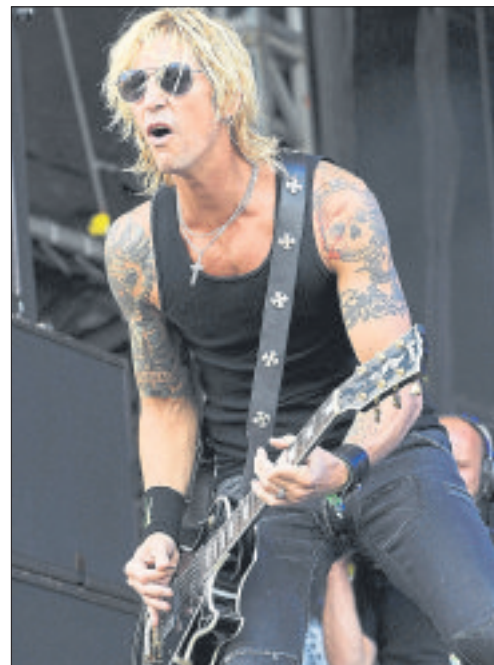
Trisha turned to retail after years of touring with Georgio in Europe. She was bright, a former student of King Edward's School in Camp Hill, Birmingham, where she grew up, but not academic, she says. The family moved to Wolverhampton when she was 14 and even then there were signs that she was destined for a career in fashion. She was developing her own individual style, getting into trouble for wearing a dufflecoat over

her school uniform. Her years on the road with Georgio, who had his own band at the time, later joining 60s pop groups The Fourmost and Freddie and The Dreamers, sowed the seeds of her later career.

She started making stage outfits – flamboyant shirts and flared trousers – for her husband's band, and then for other musicians on the gigging circuit. Young people flocked to her shop – there was nothing like it in Wolverhampton – but she couldn't keep up with demand, eventually forced to give up making her own stock to buy in.

Keeping it authentic she used to travel to New York and Los Angeles to buy her gear. "Ironically I used to get a lot of American bands making a special pilgrimage to my shop for clothes that I'd bought in America," she says.

Eventually she became as well known among the rock community as some of her customers. Famous hands to grace her boutique have been Whitesnake, W.A.S.P., Skindred, Steel Panther, Echo and the Bunnymen, the list goes on.



US musician Duff McKagan's Loaded at Download Festival

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Sat 2 Sep	2 Burghley Horse Trials	£99
Fri 8 Sep	3 London & The Goodwood Revival	£199
Sat 30 Sep	2 The Official World's Strongest Man Tour Finals	£119

Liverpool & Chester Races

Sat 27 May	£99	Sat 5 August	£99
Sat 1 July	£99		

- What's included?**
- Coach travel with reserved seating
 - One night dinner, bed & breakfast at our select hotel
 - Visit to Liverpool
 - Inclusive admission to Chester Races

Explore Europe

Explore the best of Europe.....

Rome & Taste of Italy

Sun 5 March	£319	Sun 2 April	£349
Sun 19 March	£319	Sun 23 April	£349

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- Coach travel with reserved seating
 - Four nights dinner, bed & continental breakfast plus two evening meals in Montecatini Terme
 - Overnight stops on outward & return journeys on bed and continental breakfast basis
 - Guided tours of Vipitino & Innsbruck
 - Full day excursion to Florence
 - An extended day to Rome
 - Excursion to Pisa

4/5/7 DAY EUROPEAN BREAKS

Fri 24 Feb	4 Disneyland Paris at the Magic Circus	£349
Fri 24 Feb	4 Disneyland Spectacular at The B&B Hotel	£279
Fri 24 Feb	4 Disneyland Spectacular at The Kyriad	£279
Fri 24 Feb	4 Ostend Weekend Superdeal	£129
Fri 24 Feb	4 Paris Weekend Superdeal	£149
Mon 27 Feb	5 Rhine & Moselle All Inclusive	£199
Mon 27 Feb	5 Rhine Valley Superdeal	£169
Sun 5 Mar	7 Lake Garda & Venice All-Inclusive	£339
Mon 6 Mar	5 Ostend All Inclusive	£239
Mon 6 Mar	4 Ostend Special Breakaway	£199
Mon 6 Mar	5 Ostend Superdeal	£209
Mon 6 Mar	5 Rhine & Moselle All Inclusive	£219
Mon 6 Mar	5 Rhine Valley Superdeal	£189
Mon 6 Mar	5 Three Countries Inclusive Special	£199

Special Events

Enjoy admission to sensational Special Events.

2 DAY SPECIAL EVENTS BREAKS

Sat 1 Apr	Victoria at Harewood House	£89
Mon 3 Apr	Flying Scotsman Special	£119
Sat 15 Apr	Emmerdale The Tour	£99
Sat 15 Apr	London & The Tall Ships Regatta Easter Special	£119
Sat 22 Apr	Cotswolds Wartime 1940's Special	£89
Sat 22 Apr	Skipiton Market & Harrogate Flower Show	£99
Tue 25 Apr	Gino's Italian Escape - Live!	£99
Sat 6 May	The London Motor Show	£99
Sat 13 May	Abingdon Airshow & Historic Bath	£99
Sat 13 May	Hobbycrafts, Stitch & Sew - Live!	£79
Sat 20 May	Emmerdale The Tour	£99
Sat 27 May	Chelsea Flower Show	£169
Sat 10 Jun	Ideal Home Show & Liverpool	£89
Sat 24 Jun	Victoria at Harewood House	£79

Emmerdale Studio Experience

Sat 18 March	£99	Wed 17 May	£79
Sat 22 April	£99	Wed 21 June	£79

- What's included?**
- Coach travel with reserved seating throughout
 - One night dinner, bed & breakfast at our select hotel
 - All bedrooms with en-suite facilities
 - Saturday visit to Skipiton for its colourful market
 - Included guided tour at the Emmerdale Studio Experience and enjoy the much loved surroundings of the Dingles, Bernice's Salon, Smith Cottage and The Woolpack

Family Fun

Great breaks for all the family!

Polar Bears, Penguins & Kingdom of Ice

Sat 15 April	£99	Sat 17 June	£99
Sat 20 May	£99	Sat 29 July	£99

- What's included?**
- Coach travel with reserved seating throughout
 - One night dinner, bed & breakfast at our select hotel
 - Included admission to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park to visit the Polar Bears and numerous other animals
 - Included admission to the stunning 'Deep' in Hull where visitors can enjoy a unique interactive experience.

2 DAY FAMILY FUN BREAKS

Sat 18 Mar	Legoland Spectacular	£99
Sat 25 Mar	London & Harry Potter Studio Tour	£119
Sat 1 Apr	Islands at Chester Zoo & Llangollen Cruise	£99
Thu 6 Apr	London & Harry Potter Studio Tour	£119
Thu 13 Apr	London & Harry Potter Studio Tour	£119
Sat 15 Apr	Legoland Spectacular	£119
Sat 15 Apr	London & Harry Potter Studio Tour	£119
Sat 22 Apr	Longleaf Safari Park, Jungle Cruise & Windsor	£99
Sat 29 Apr	Islands at Chester Zoo & Llangollen Cruise	£99
Sat 29 Apr	Legoland Discovery & Blackpool Funtline	£89
Sat 20 May	London & Harry Potter Studio Tour	£119
Sat 27 May	Longleaf Safari Park, Jungle Cruise & Windsor	£99
Sat 3 Jun	Legoland Discovery & Blackpool Funtline	£89
Sat 10 Jun	Islands at Chester Zoo & Llangollen Cruise	£99

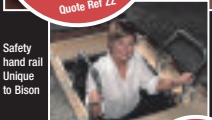
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Rating at care home to stay 'inadequate'

A CARE home where assaults went unreported and residents shouted they wished they were dead has failed to improve and will remain in special measures.

Crossways Residential Home on Highgate Road, Walsall, was rated as 'inadequate' across the board by CQC inspectors during a follow-up visit in December. It was first placed in special measures in August last year, but at the most recent inspection the required improvements had not been made. The home cared for around 20 people at the time of the visit, with the majority of them living with dementia.

Jorja all set for tour



Jorja Smith, from Walsall, who is due to go on tour

A HOTLY-TIPPED soul singer from Walsall has announced plans for a UK tour later this year.

Jorja Smith, aged 19, finished fourth in the BBC's Sound of 2017 competition and has now announced a six date tour starting at the 02 Academy 2 in Birmingham on April 1. Shows in Brighton, London, Leeds, Glasgow and Manchester will follow. The tour comes hot on the heels of a sold out debut UK tour at the end of last year followed by a sold out debut US tour in January 2017.

Tickets are on sale now, log onto <http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/> and search for Jorja Smith.

During a three-day visit to the site in December, inspectors learned that six people had been physically assaulted by one resident since October and that the registered manager had failed to intervene, putting residents at further risk.

A report into the home also states that the manager had not ensured staff had the skills they needed to recognise that their care was falling short of standards, using an example of when a person shouted out 'I wish I was dead' in view of others. When asked about this, the registered manager told inspectors they did not recognise how this would have an effect on the well being of residents.

Regarding the assaults, a statement in the report reads: "We found that multiple incidents had arisen within the service prior to the inspection including people being physically assaulted. The registered manager was not aware that all of these serious incidents had taken place."

The home was given 'inadequate' ratings across the board, with inspectors deeming that safety, effectiveness, care, responsiveness and leadership were all not up to scratch. The home will now be given six months to improve its standards of potentially face having its licence taken away.



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19/03/17 - 7 days	St Ives (Cornwall)	07/05/17 - 8 days	Irish Highlights
20/03/17 - 5 days	Weymouth	08/05/17 - 5 days	Paignton and Torquay
27/03/17 - 5 days	Warner's Nidd Hall	15/05/17 - 5 days	Eastbourne
03/04/17 - 5 days	Falmouth (Cornwall)	15/05/17 - 5 days	Canterbury (Kent)
07/04/17 - 4 days	Llandudno (Wales)	15/05/17 - 5 days	Isle of Wight
10/04/17 - 5 days	Paignton/Torquay	20/05/17 - 5 days	Great Yarmouth
14/04/17 - 4 days	Tenby (Wales)	22/05/17 - 5 days	Looe (Cornwall)
15/04/17 - 3 days	Tall Ships (London)	22/05/17 - 6 days	Highland Railways
17/04/17 - 5 days	Scarborough	29/05/17 - 5 days	Ilfracombe
17/04/17 - 5 days	Eastbourne	29/05/17 - 5 days	Yorkshire Dales
17/04/17 - 5 days	Isle of Wight	29/05/17 - 5 days	Snowdonia & Steam Trains
18/04/17 - 8 days	Jersey/Guernsey	21/06/17 - 5 days	Isle of Man
23/04/17 - 4 days	Portsmouth	31/07/17 - 5 days	Isles of Scilly

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Don't ignore the warning signs.

If you've been suffering from tummy troubles such as **diarrhoea, bloating, discomfort or anything else that just doesn't feel right for three weeks or more**, it could be a sign of cancer.

It's probably nothing serious, but finding cancer early makes it more treatable, so **tell your doctor.**

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BBC School Report and many other events shape the school year at Bloxwich Academy

Rapid rise in improvements

As we begin spring term we certainly kick off with a jam-packed, bursting-to-the-brim diary.

Firstly, we have received our HMI Report following a recent inspection in late December.

I could not be more honoured by the positive and encouraging comments made about Bloxwich Academy pupils and staff.

Linda McGill and Rob Hackfath (Her Majesty's Inspectors) noted: "Leaders and manager are taking effective action towards the removal of special measures."

Both inspectors noted: "The calm working environment that occurs within lessons and the positive relationships that exist between pupils and adults."

We strive to continue to move onwards and upwards at the academy

Commercial feature

to be the best we can be.

This continues this half term with educational and cultural visits for Year 7 to London to see the renowned The Lion King theatre production.

We make our first overseas trip to France in February, and a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland for a number of our Historians, BBC School Report in March and costumes at the ready for World Book Day!

Giving

The academic year of 2016-17 certainly began with an extraordinary bang indeed.

Autumn was most definitely the time for giving and both I and Bloxwich

Academy staff were astounded by the generosity and kindness of our pupils and parents.

From an electrifying day for Children in Need where we raised a whopping £855.91, to the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal where we filled over 35 boxes full of items such as: toys, hats, gloves and toiletries.

These were also generously donated and then given to the Blythswood Care Charity for families in the Ukraine for Christmas.

As the proud Headteacher and staff we are elated at how the academy continues to grow and improve for the very best of our pupils.

This year is set to be the very best in our academy History.

**Andy Seager,
Headteacher**

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See Page 19



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FRI 10 MAR		FRI 24 MAR	
FRI 14 APR		FRI 28 APR	
FRI 12 MAY		FRI 26 MAY	

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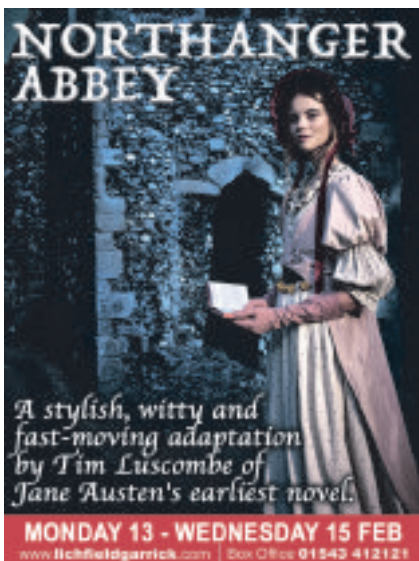
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Julian Cope




Sunday, 7pm
Glee Club, Birmingham
 The stone circle admiring, Tamworth-raised pagan rocker, one of the finest purveyors of post-punk psych pop in the 80s, makes a rare return to Brum. It's already sold out. See www.glee.co.uk

Jack Whitehall




Thursday, 8pm
Genting Arena, NEC
 The comedy star of TV's Fresh Meat, Bad Education and numerous panel shows makes the transition to a mega-venue, and is also back on February 26 to play the Barclaycard Arena. Visit www.gentingarena.co.uk

Alpines



Tuesday, 7pm
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath
 Treat your Valentine to some stylish electronic R&B when London duo Catherine Pockson and Bob Matthews (AKA Alpines) bring songs from their second album Another River. See hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk

Cinderella



Wednesday to Saturday (February 25)
Birmingham Hippodrome
 Birmingham Royal Ballet return home to present David Bintley's spectacular and award-winning family favourite. See www.birminghamhippodrome.com

JAZZ, SOUL, BLUES, REGGAE & MOTOWN

Up 4 The Downstroke
 Tonight - tomorrow,
 The Jam House,
 Birmingham, B3 1QU.
 Call 0121 200 3030

Jazz Tuesdays
 Tue,
 Spotted Dog, Digbeth,
 Birmingham, B12 0NH.
 Call 0121 772 3822

Jazzlines presents..
Stella Roberts' Sextet
 Tue, £14.95
 The Jam House,
 Birmingham, B3 1QU.
 Call 0121 200 3030

Big Wolf Band
 Wed, £14.95
 The Jam House,
 Birmingham, B3 1QU.
 Call 0121 200 3030

Dan Spirrett Nonet:
Of Mice and Men
 Thu, £6 - £12
 Birmingham Conservatoire,
 Birmingham City University,
 Edgbaston, B3 3HG.
 Call 0121 331 5901

Green Bayou feat. Gary
Whittingham & Smokin
Ade Wakelin
 Thu, £3
 The RoadHouse Birmingham,
 Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
 Call 0121 246 2273

ROCK & METAL

The Boss (Springsteen)
+ Bryan Adams Experience
 Tonight, £12 - £14
 The Robin 2,
 Bilston,
 WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Cult Fiction + Iron 2
Maiden double header
 Tonight, £7 - £8
 The RoadHouse Birmingham,
 Kings Norton,
 B30 3DZ.
 Call 0121 246 2273

Dire Streets
 Tomorrow, £15
 Huntingdon Hall, Crowngate
 Shopping Centre, Worcester,
 WR1 3LD.
 Call 01905 611427

The Modfathers
 Tomorrow, £10 - £12
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Oaceis + The Jam DRC
+ The Coopers
 Tomorrow, £7 - £8
 The RoadHouse Birmingham,
 Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
 Call 0121 246 2273

Strange Bones +
Blackwaters + special guests
 Tomorrow, £6
 The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent,
 ST1 1DR.
 Call 01782 214991

Valentines Rock n Roll
Dance -1950s featuring
Debra-June & The Rockin
Tunes, plus top DJ Big Col
 Tomorrow,
 The Austin Sports & Social Club,
 Birmingham, B31 2SF.
 Call 0121 475 1641

Altered Bridge + Mallen
 Sun, £6
 The RoadHouse Birmingham,
 Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
 Call 0121 246 2273

Julian Cope
 Sun, 7pm
 Glee Club Birmingham,
 The Arcadian Centre, B5 4TD.
 Call 0121 693 2248

Colin Blunstone
with his full band
 Wed, £16 - £17.50
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Rumours of Fleetwood Mac
 Wed, £22.50 - £32.50
 Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
 SY3 8FT.
 Call 01743 281281

Four Year Strong
 Thu,
 O2 Academy Birmingham,
 B1 1DB.
 Call 0121 622 8250

POP

Voice of the Heart
- Karen Carpenter tribute
 Tomorrow,
 Festival Drayton Centre,
 Market Drayton, TF9 3AX.
 Call 01630 654444

Alpines
 Tue, 7pm
 Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
 Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
 Call 0121 444 2081

Let There Be Love
Valentines Day Event
 Tue,
 The Chameleon Restaurant &
 Bar, Birmingham, B1 1BD.
 Call 0121 643 2233

FOLK, COUNTRY & ACOUSTIC

The Furrow Collective
 Sun,
 MAC Theatre, Cannon Hill Park,
 Birmingham, B3 1QU.
 Call 0121 200 3030

Barbara Dickson
 Tue, £20 - £27
 Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
 SY3 8FT. Call 01743 281281

Wille & The Bandits
 Thu, £10 - £12
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

CLASSICAL

SOT Festival - BBC
Philharmonic Feb 2017
 Tonight,
 Victoria Hall, Hanley,
 Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
 Call 0844 871 7649

Steven Osborne: Rachmaninov
 Wed - Thu,
 CBSO Centre, Birmingham,
 B1 2LF. Call 0121 616 6500

THEATRE

Stand By Me
 Tonight,
 Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
 ST1 1AP. Call 0844 871 7649

Wonderland
 Tonight - tomorrow,
 New Alexandra Theatre,
 Birmingham, B5 4DS.
 Call 0844 871 3011

Dial M for Murder
 Tonight - tomorrow,
 Hall Green Little Theatre,
 Birmingham, B27 7RY.
 Call 0121 707 1874

The Red Shoes
 Tonight - tomorrow,
 Birmingham Hippodrome,
 B5 4TB.
 Call 0844 338 5000

What's In A Name?
 Tonight - tomorrow,
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
 Library of Birmingham, B1 2EP.
 Call 0121 236 4455

Ursula
 Tomorrow, £6 - £8
 The University of Birmingham,
 Edgbaston, B15 2TT.
 all 0121 414 4117

The Nutcracker
 Sun, £13.50 - £39
 Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
 Call 01684 892277

Thoroughly Modern Millie
 Mon - Thu,
 New Alexandra Theatre,
 Birmingham, B5 4DS.
 Call 0844 871 3011

Frankenstein
 Mon - Wed,
 Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
 Call 01684 892277

Jamie Raven Live
 Tue,
 Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
 ST1 1AP.
 Call 0844 871 7649

Anita And Me
 Tue - Thu,
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
 WV1 1DE. Call 01902 42 92 12

William Shakespeare's Long
Lost First Play (Abridged)
 Tue - Wed,
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
 Library of Birmingham,
 B1 2EP.
 Call 0121 236 4455

Swan Lake
 Wed, £11.50 - £36.50
 Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
 Call 01684 892277

Cinderella
 Wed-Thu,
 Birmingham Hippodrome,
 B5 4TB.
 Call 0844 338 5000

Carmen
 Thu,
 Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
 Call 01684 892277

COMEDY

Standup comedy - James
Redmond, David Whitney,
Sean Percival
 Tonight - Sun, £15
 Jongleurs Comedy Club, Bir-
 mingham, B1 2HG.
 Call 08700 111 960

Jimmy Carr: The Best Of,
Ultimate, Gold, Greatest
Hits Tour
 Tomorrow,
 Victoria Hall, Hanley,
 Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
 Call 0844 871 7649

Jack Whitehall
 Thu,
 Genting Arena, Birmingham,
 B40 1NT.
 Call 0121 780 4141

RH Comedy Presents
 Thu,
 The RoadHouse Birmingham,
 Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
 Call 0121 246 2273

ARTS & CULTURE

Spotlight Tour
 Today, Sun, Free
 Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace,
 Birmingham, B1 2HS.
 Call 0121 248 0708

Stitch Social
 Today,
 Creative Coffee Hub,
 Birmingham, B29 6HJ.
 Call 01215 727300

Theatre Tour
 Tomorrow,
 New Alexandra Theatre,
 Birmingham, B5 4DS.
 Call 0844 871 3011

Musical Portraits
 Tomorrow,
 Ruddock Performing Arts Centre,
 King Edward's School,
 Birmingham, B15 2UA.
 Call 0121 472 9585

Beginners Machine
Embroidery with Angie Hughes
 Tomorrow,
 Winterbourne House and Garden,
 The University of Birmingham,
 Edgbaston, B15 2TT.
 Call 0121 414 4117

David Cox and
his Contemporaries
 Today - Thu,
 Worcester City Art Gallery,
 WR1 1DT.
 Call 01905 25371

Darwin Memorial Lecture
 Sun, £10
 Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
 SY3 8FT.
 Call 01743 281281

Whyley Dance
 Tue,
 Areley Kings Village Hall,
 Areley Common, Astley Cross,
 Stourport-on-Severn, DY13 0NB.
 Call 07939 318973

Bite-sized talk: David Cox
Influence and Influences
 Tue,
 Worcester City Art Gallery,
 WR1 1DT.
 Call 01905 25371

Solihull Photographic
Society - Tessa Mills
 Tue,
 Solihull Women's Institute,
 B91 3DQ.
 Call 07815 165438

Somewhere Never Travelled -
Annette Pugh Solo Exhibition
 Today - Thu,
 Reuben Colley Fine Art,
 Birmingham, B3 2BB.
 Call 0121 236 0920

Beginners Embroidery Course
 Wed,
 Creative Coffee Hub,
 Birmingham, B29 6HJ.
 Call 01215 727300

Photographic Prize 2017
 Thu,
 RBSA Gallery, Birmingham,
 B3 1SA.
 Call 0121 236 4353

FAMILY & KIDS

Parent and toddler morning
 Tue, £2
 Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace,
 Birmingham, B1 2HS.
 Call 0121 248 0708

MISC. EVENTS

Rugby Ramble
 Tomorrow,
 Birmingham Moseley Rugby
 Club,
 Billesley Common,
 B13 0PT.
 Call 0121 443 3631

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Dancer Joanne taking the lead

A GOLD-DIGGING flapper gets more than she bargained for in the new re-vamped version of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, a hit musical from the 60s that was set in the 20s and is coming to Birmingham.

This delirious comic celebration of the jazz age has star power with the professional winner of *Strictly Come Dancing*'s glitterball, Joanne Clifton, making her leading role debut as the bobbed and bewildered Millie Dillmount, a Kansas girl adrift in New York City.

Searching for a rich husband amid the speakeasies and skyscrapers, Millie falls on hard times and finds herself in a low-rent hotel run by the villainous Mrs Meers, being played with relish by former *EastEnders* Michelle Collins.

Tap

The winner of six Tony Awards including Best Musical, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* is based on the 1967 Academy Award-winning film (which starred Julie Andrews) with new songs by Jeanine Tesori and Dick Scanlan. It was a Broadway smash when it opened in 2002, and was followed by a West End production starring Amanda Holden.

Highlights include explosive tap dance numbers and a 'Fred and Ginger' style routine on a window ledge.

The show runs at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to the following Saturday.

For tickets see www.atgtickets.com or call the box office on 0844 871 3011.



Strictly winner Joanne Clifton stars as *Thoroughly Modern Millie* in Birmingham



Growing up in the 1970s

CORONATION Street and **Dinnerladies** actress **Shobna Gulati** is starring in *Anita and Me*, a culture-clash comedy with its roots in Staffordshire village life.

The play was a huge success when staged at Birmingham Rep in 2015 and a new production by the Touring Consortium Theatre Company is staged at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Tuesday to the following Saturday.

Shobna Gulati (pictured left) will play Daljit in the new tour of the play adapted by Tanika Gupta from the book by Wolverhampton-born actress, author and comedienne Meera Syal.

The semi-autobiographical tale draws upon Meera's own childhood in Essington, and tells the story of Meena, the only girl from a Punjabi family growing up in a

West Midlands mining village during the 1970s, and her friendship with Anita.

Meera Syal, a former Queen Mary's High School pupil who found fame on TV's *Goodness Gracious Me*, said: "I'm delighted that Anita and Me is touring the UK."

"It is amazing to think of so many people engaging in this story, particularly young people, who like me as a child, may be wondering how they fit in."

Admired

Oldham-born Shobna was delighted to land a role in *Anita and Me*. She said: "I've wanted to work on Meera's work for some time. Meera and I seem to have missed each other for one reason or another, but I've admired her work greatly. I didn't read the book when it first came out, but it's a great role and it's one that I identify with strongly."

Tickets are on sale online at grandtheatre.co.uk or by calling 01902 429212.

She's Not There...but Colin will be, at Robin

HIS voice features on one of the most spellbinding songs of the 1960s, *She's Not There*. Now the former lead singer of The Zombies, Colin Blunstone, is bringing is latest band to the Black Country.

The Zombies had another major hit four years later in 1968 with *Time Of The Season* and that year produced acclaimed album *Odessey And Oracle*. Blunstone had solo success in the 70s, including the hit *Say You Don't Mind*, and with Dave Stewart (*What Becomes Of The Broken Hearted*) and The Alan Parsons Project in the 80s.

He's at The Robin 2, Bilston, on Wednesday. For ticket information see www.therobin.co.uk or call 01902 401211.

Dub rockers promise a Dread good night out

FOUNDED by Big Audio Dynamite drummer Greg Roberts and sound engineer/musician Tim Bran in 1993, Dreadzone went on to become stalwarts of the festival and post-rave dance music scenes with their fusion of dub reggae, electronic dance, folk and rock.

The John Peel favourites even made the UK top 20 singles in 1996 with *Little Britain*.

This month the band return to their dub roots on eighth album *Dread Times*, on their Dubwise label, and will be in concert at The Slade Rooms in Wolverhampton on Saturday.

Visit the website www.wolves-civic.co.uk for more information, or call 0870 320 7000.

Hard Rock Hell with 40 bands on the bill

FORGET flowers, how about some very heavy metal for Valentine's Day?

This weekend more than 40 hard rock bands will be gathering at the O2 Academy in Birmingham city centre for two days of metal mayhem.

The weekend festival under the HRH (Hard Rock Hell) Metal banner has been named the St Valentine's Day Metal Meltown and is marking 10 years of HRH.

Bands playing at the venue's three rooms include Skindred, Raging Speedhorn, Evile, Sodom, Lawnmower Deth, Senses, Obzidian, and Feed The Rhino. See www.hrmmetal.com for the full line-up details and ticket information.

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CHOICE



Terry Pratchett

Terry Pratchett: Back in Black (BBC2, 9pm)

A dramatised documentary telling the story of the life of Terry Pratchett, the fantasy author whose popular Discworld series made him a household name, selling more than 85 million copies worldwide. In 2015, following a prolonged and very public battle with Alzheimers, Terry died, leaving behind one last unfinished story - his own. Here, actor Paul Kaye steps into the celebrated writer's shoes, charting Terry's life from his troubled schooldays and his difficulties securing the respect of literary critics, through to his eventual success, and his gradual decline into ill health. The film makes use of Terry's own words, along with those of his friend and collaborator Neil Gaiman.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Nitro Athletics: Usain Bolt Takes on the World. **2.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.30** Film: Shrek 2. (2004) Animated adventure sequel. **3.55** BBC News. **4.05** Regional Programme. **4.15** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Wales v England (Kick-off 4.50pm).

6.55 **Let It Shine**. Graham Norton and Mel Giedroyc take the nationwide talent search live, as the five assembled boy-bands discover for the first time what the viewing public really think of them. Having battled through solo auditions and collaborations with some of Britain's biggest musical stars, the would-be pop princes must now stand on their own two feet, performing as five-pieces for the first time. There's a change to the judging panel too, as Dannii Minogue, Martin Kemp and Gary Barlow are joined by a special guest judge to cast their verdict on each band's performance. At the end of the show, lines are opened for viewers at home to vote for their favourite act.

7.55 **Casualty**. Connie is on the warpath as the day of Elle's hearing arrives. However, when Grace is severely injured, her life ends up in Elle's hands.

8.45 **Let It Shine - The Results**. The results of the viewer vote are revealed, and the three top-scoring bands claim a place in the next stage of the contest, while the remaining two battle for survival.

9.15 **Taboo**. Delaney's trading plans begin to unravel, and a shocking family revelation have an impact on not only James himself, but also his erstwhile allies, his household, and his family.

10.15 **BBC News**; Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.30 **Match of the Day**. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Liverpool v Tottenham Hotspur at Anfield.

11.55 **This Country**. New series. Mockumentary presenting a wry look at the lives of young people living in modern, rural Britain, via two ne'er-do-well cousins living in the Cotswolds.

12.20 **Film**: Passion. (2012) **2.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 **Film**: Magic Town. (1947) **8.10** **Film**: The Lavender Hill Mob. (1951) **9.30** Coast. (R) **10.00** Britain's Secret Seas. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** A Cook Abroad: Tony Singh's India. (R) **1.00** **Film**: Quo Vadis. (1951) Historical epic, starring Robert Taylor. **3.45** Flog It! (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.30** Mastermind. (R)

6.00 **University Challenge**. Student quiz, chaired by Jeremy Paxman. (R)

6.30 **Only Connect**. Victoria Coren Mitchell presents the quiz show in which successful contestants make connections between things that initially do not appear to be linked. (R)

7.00 **Welcome to Hull: City of Culture 2017**. Comedienne Lucy Beaumont returns to Hull to preview some of the cultural highlights taking place throughout 2017, with help from actress Maureen Lipman and writer Richard Bean.

7.30 **George III - The Genius of the Mad King**. After 200 years under lock and key, all the personal papers of George III are seeing the light of day for the first time. In this documentary, Robert Hardman uses these documents to shed new light on Britain's longest-reigning king, revealing a man who was a political micromanager and a restless patron of science and the arts, and someone who was driven - sometimes to distraction - by his sense of duty to his family and his country. Featuring readings by Simon Callow and San Thomas. (R)

8.30 **Dad's Army**. The platoon competes against a rival unit for the honour of guarding Winston Churchill on a visit to Walmington-on-Sea. Guest starring Barbara Windsor. (R)

9.00 **Terry Pratchett: Back in Black**. Paul Kaye steps into Terry Pratchett's shoes in a dramatised documentary that makes use of the celebrated fantasy author's own unpublished writing to tell his own life story.

9.50 **QI XL**.

10.35 **Film**: Behind the Candelabra. (2013) Biopic of pianist Liberace. Directed by Steven Soderbergh and starring Michael Douglas.

12.30 **Film**: A Royal Affair. (2012) **2.40** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.30** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.55** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival School. **8.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** Alphabetical. (R) **10.25** Guess This House. (R) **11.25** River Monsters. (R) **11.55** ITV News; Weather. **12.00** Dance Dance Dance. (R) **1.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Italy v Ireland (Kick-off 2.25pm). **4.30** Tipping Point. (R) **5.30** Regional Programme; Weather. **5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 **You've Been Framed! To the Max!** Harry Hill showcases a selection of high-octane comical mishaps, captured on video by viewers.

7.00 **Ninja Warrior UK**. Ben Shepherd, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara host the penultimate edition of the obstacle-course contest, as competitors from across the UK test their strength, speed and courage.

8.00 **The Voice UK**. Celebrity "coaches" Will.i.am, Tom Jones, Jennifer Hudson and Gavin Rossdale preside over the penultimate round of Blind Auditions. As ever, the celebrity panel must decide whether to lend their support to each act with their backs turned to the performer, allowing only the contestants' voice to play a part in the selection process. If more than one coach wants to claim the same artist, then the contestant is given a chance to choose which coach they would like to join.

9.20 **Through the Keyhole**. Fay Ripley, Steve Jones and Rochelle Humes form the studio panel, as Keith Lemon challenges them to guess which celebrity homes he has invaded this week.

10.20 **ITV News**; Weather.

10.35 **Film**: The Bourne Ultimatum. (2007) The amnesiac assassin regains his memory, just as a CIA director sets in motion a plan to kill him. Spy thriller sequel, starring Matt Damon, Julia Stiles and David Strathairn.

12.40 Jackpot247. **3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.10** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.20 The King of Queens. (R) **6.45** The King of Queens. (R) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.50** The Simpsons. (R) **11.20** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **12.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **3.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **3.30** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. (R) **4.35** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** Grand Designs. (R)

6.30 **Channel 4 News**. **7.00** **Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages**. The Welsh peninsula of Pembrokeshire provides the setting for Penelope's last outing, as she tours villages clinging to the cliffsides and estuaries, or nestled beside beaches, farms and castles. She discovers how Manorbier has connections to both Virginia Woolf and CS Lewis's Narnia stories, and pays a visit to the waterside villages of the Cleddau Estuary, from Langwm to Lawrenny. She encounters native Welsh-speakers in the Preseli Hills, and visits St Dogmaels, home of an impressive food market. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 **Great Canal Journeys**. Timothy West and Pamela Scales take a trip to Bristol, where Timothy is soon to play King Lear at the Old Vic, and revisit both their childhood homes in Devon. (R)

9.00 **Film**: 2 Guns. (2013) Two undercover agents - one working for the DEA the other for the Navy - infiltrate a drug cartel, only for the planned sting operation to go disastrously wrong. Both operatives become fugitives and must work together to survive - but both keep their true identity a secret, mistakenly thinking the other is a real criminal. Action adventure, starring Denzel Washington and Mark Wahlberg.

11.10 **Film**: Riddick. (2013) A fugitive left for dead on a dangerous alien world lures bounty hunters to the planet in a plot to escape. Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Vin Diesel.

1.15 The Last Leg. (R) **2.10** Hollyoaks.

4.15 Building the Dream. **5.05** Jamie's Comfort Food. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.25** Access. (R) **10.30** Police Interceptors Unleashed. (R) **11.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Benefits: Can't Work. Won't Work. (R) **2.00** Benefits: 19 Kids and Counting the Cost. (R) **3.00** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **4.00** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **5.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R)

6.00 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away**. Repossession agents Mike Allonby and Terry Jones travel to Cheshire to collect a vehicle from a woman who owes several hundred pounds on a loan, then they head to Liverpool to recover a Jaguar X-Type. High court enforcement officers Paul Bohill and Steve Pinner carry out an order to evict a couple with young children in London's East End just a few days before Christmas, and later, in Essex, try to track down a man who owes more than £10,000 to his landlord. (R)

7.00 **NCIS: Los Angeles**. Deeks places his job in danger when he shoots and kills an unarmed man, prompting unexpected emotions for Kensi as she contemplates losing her partner.

8.00 **NCIS**. A petty officer is shot dead in a manner matching the modus operandi of the Tri-State Sniper, but said killer is discovered to have been in custody on the day of the shooting.

8.55 **5 News Weekend**.

9.00 **Football on 5: The Championship**. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Brighton & Hove Albion v Burton Albion at the AMEX Stadium.

10.00 **Football on 5: Goal Rush**. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including AFC Wimbledon v Charlton Athletic at Cherry Red Records Stadium.

10.30 **World's Biggest Diamond Heist**. The experts try to repeat the breathtaking theft of around \$91million-worth of diamonds from a maximum-security underground vault in 2003.

11.30 **Police Interceptors Unleashed**. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** **Film**: Against All Flags. (1952) **4.40** Access. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Natural World: Meet the Monkeys
8.00 A303: Highway to the Sun **9.00** Treasures of Ancient Egypt **10.00** The Young Montalbano **11.45** Top of the Pops: 1983 **12.50** The Joy of Disco **1.50** Bad Fever: A TOTP Disco Special **3.20** Sounds of the 70s **3.50** Close

ITV2

11.15 Ninja Warrior UK **12.15** Take Me Out **1.35** You've Been Framed! **Gold 2.10**

Film: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **3.10** FYI Daily **3.15** **Film**: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007)

4.00 **Film**: Snow Dogs (2002) **5.00** FYI Daily **5.05** **Film**: Snow Dogs (2002) **6.05**

Film: Evan Almighty (2007) **7.05** FYI Daily **7.10** **Film**: Evan Almighty (2007)

8.00 Scorpion **9.00** **Film**: Shaun of the Dead (2004) **11.05** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.30** Release the Hounds: Famous & Freaked **2.25**

Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** **ITV2**

Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV3

11.40 **Film**: Rest in Peace, Mrs Columbo (1990) **1.45** Agatha Christie's Marple

3.55 Lewis **5.55** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Doc Martin **1.00** Blue Murder **1.55** **ITV3**

Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.05 The Professionals **12.05** Storage Wars: Texas **1.05** Storage Wars **1.30** **ITV4**

Racing: Live from Newbury. Ed Chamberlin presents coverage of six races from Newbury and Warwick. **4.00**

Film: Every Which Way But Loose (1978)

5.05 FYI Daily **5.10** **Film**: Every Which Way But Loose (1978) **6.10** Storage Wars **6.45** Live Snooker: World Grand Prix **11.15** **Film**: Mars Attacks! (1996)

12.15 FYI Daily **12.20** **Film**: Mars Attacks! (1996) **1.25** The Wine Show **2.30** Sporting Funnies **2.45** **ITV4**

Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

2.30 The Goldbergs **5.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00**

Film: Bridesmaids (2011) **11.30** Gogglebox **1.40** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.35** The Intebweeners **3.30**

Virtually Famous - Tattoo Fixers vs Virtually Famous **4.10** Rude(s) Tube

Film4

1.00 Genevieve (1953) **1.00** Inkheart (2008) **3.05** ParaNorman (2012) **4.55** Turner & Hooch (1989) **6.55** Volcano (1997) **9.00** Super 8 (2011) **11.15** The Texas Chainsaw Massacre 2 (1986) **1.20** Machete Kills (2013) **3.35** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
The Legend of Hercules, Channel 5, 10pm
The son of a Greek God and a mortal queen grows up blessed with superhuman strength. He is betrayed and sold into slavery by his evil stepfather, but he regains his freedom and hones his fighting skills so he can return and reclaim his rightful kingdom. Mythological adventure, starring Kellan Lutz. (2014)

TUESDAY
Pretty Woman, BBC1, 10.45pm
A ruthless millionaire hires a prostitute while on a business trip. Realising she may be useful in helping him keep up a successful appearance, he pays her to accompany him for a week as he associates with the rich and powerful – but falls in love despite their many differences. Romantic comedy, starring Richard Gere and Julia Roberts. (1990)

WEDNESDAY
Killer Collector, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Two women at an auction unwittingly purchase a storage locker belonging to a serial killer that contains evidence of his crimes. They soon find themselves in a desperate race to uncover the truth before the murderer tracks them down. Thriller, directed by and starring Casper Van Dien. (2015)



Up in the Air, Thursday, BBC1, 11.45pm

THURSDAY
Up in the Air, BBC1, 11.45pm
A corporate downsizing expert loves his life, detached from everyday existence and striving to achieve a personal goal of 10 million accumulated air miles. However, his lifestyle comes under threat by an up-and-coming executive with a revolutionary approach that would make his role all but obsolete. Comedy drama, starring George Clooney. (2009)

FRIDAY
Forbidden Secrets, Channel 5, 3.20pm
A divorced woman returns to her family home to begin rebuilding her life, but her stay turns into a nightmare when she has frightening visions of her childhood, during which her mother tried to drown her. Determined to face her fears, she visits the institution where her parent resides, and triggers a series of terrifying events. Thriller, starring Kristy Swanson. (2005)

Soap legend takes a trip down memory lane

Hands up who remembers Dot Cotton's first line in EastEnders.

Probably very few who tuned in on July 4, 1985, thought that the chain-smoking, hypochondriac with an ear for gossip would go on to become a soap legend.

More than 30 years later, she's still going strong, and to fans of the programme, is almost as familiar to them as members of their family.

Dot was not, however, an original cast member; although mentioned in early episodes due to being the mother of 'Nasty' Nick Cotton, she didn't pop up in person until the 40th edition – but from the very beginning, her uniform of Italian boy hairstyle and brown mac were in place, as was the cigarette fixed to her bottom lip.

It's impossible to imagine anybody but June Brown playing her either. She was largely unknown when she was cast, but is now a household name. And, as she celebrates her 90th birthday, the BBC is paying her a deserved tribute via this

documentary which looks back on her life and career.

"June Brown is a one-off, a genuine national treasure," says executive producer Caroline Wright. "It's been a privilege to be given the chance to capture her magic."

Brown was born in Suffolk on February 16, 1927, one of five children, although two of her siblings died in childhood. She was schooled in Ipswich, was evacuated to Wales during the war, and later served with the Wrens before studying at the Old Vic Theatre School.

Like Dot, she has known personal tragedy; her first husband, actor John Garley, suffered from depression and committed suicide in 1957. A year later she wed Dixon of Dock Green regular Robert Arnold, with whom she had six children; sadly, their second daughter was born prematurely and passed away at just 16 days old. She and Arnold were together for 45 years until his death in 2003.

Brown has spent much of her career as a jobbing character actress, working on the stage while popping

up on TV and films such as Psychomania, Sunday Bloody Sunday, The 14 and Lace. Her scenes were cut from the controversial Sam Peckinpah movie Straw Dogs, but she did appear in The Time Warrior, the first Doctor Who story to feature intrepid journalist Sarah Jane Smith, in 1973.

It was Leslie Grantham who recommended her to EastEnders' producers, and initially Dot was a rather unsympathetic, sanctimonious character who, over the years, became warm and sympathetic.

Brown was nominated for a Bafta for her portrayal of her alter ego in 2009 thanks to an incredible performance in a solo episode in which Dot recounts the story of her life on cassette for her husband Jim to listen to in hospital.

Despite her age, the actress is determined to soldier on, and long may she continue to do so.

And those first words? In case you're still wondering, they were: "Give us a tea, Lofy. And a glass of water so I can take a paracetamol!"



June Brown at 90: A Walford Legend, Thursday, BBC1, 8.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
First Dates: Valentine's Special Channel 4, 9pm
One assumes that the couples for this Valentine's Day special of the perennial favourite First Dates have been chosen well in advance – not only because producers will want to save their most entertaining duos for this most romantic of occasions, but also because it's impossible to book a table at short notice this weekend. Those hoping to be lucky in love tonight include comedian Vince, who's rarely received a Valentine's from anyone other than his mum. But will the poor lamb's luck change when he meets Brigitte Bardot lookalike Anna? Meanwhile, retired councillor Elaine hopes to make up for lost time with twinkle-toed music producer Steve, and a former 'asexual Asian nerd' wants a 'Norse god. Thor blamey!

TUESDAY
Super Slimmers: Did They Really Keep the Weight Off? Channel 4, 8pm
Now January is over, that sudden desire to lose weight after the excesses of Christmas relaxes a little, and it's easy to slip back into bad habits. Around 60 per cent of people in the UK are overweight, so many of us need a little inspiration,

and this documentary provides some of that. Cameras follow six folks who lost 80 stone between them. But what happened when all the fuss died down and the Press photographers left? Did they rubberband back to old habits or did the pounds stay away? Plus, a telly star who lost 17 stone reveals the body's incredible response to dieting that sabotages our efforts to keep weight off. Let's hope there also some advice on how to avoid raiding the fridge during the ad breaks.

WEDNESDAY
Who Do You Think You Are? BBC1, 8pm
Warwick Davis starts his research with his paternal grandmother Edith, who led to his big break at the age of 11 when she heard a radio advert. That advert was 'looking for short people to appear in Return of the Jedi', and Warwick was catapulted to stardom, continuing his acting career in the likes of Labyrinth and Willow. He takes a non-judgemental approach as he researches the family line stretching back from Edith,



Who Do You Think You Are?, Wednesday, BBC1, 8pm

finding humanity and humour in some uncomfortable stories, while on his maternal side, he finds out about a postman who lived a double life.

THURSDAY
The Supervet Channel 4, 8pm
New series. The return of the documentary following the work of Professor Noel Fitzpatrick and his team at their cutting-edge veterinary practice. Their first patient is a young West Highland terrier which has a problem with its paws. Two new bionic feet later, and the poorly pup has a new lease of life. A young husky collie is also brought in after being hit by a car, only for the hip replacement operation to run into trouble, and a lazy dachshund requires double surgery and lots of physiotherapy.

The Great Pottery Throw Down BBC2, 8pm
The home potters are challenged to master the art of Japanese-style ceramics. They begin at the wheel, making as many rice bowls as


they can in 15 minutes, before piercing and carving an intricate design into a lantern using a technique known as the 'devil's work'. For the main challenge, they throw a sake set, consisting of one bottle and six identical cups. The exciting part, however, comes during the firing, when they use a risky 16th-century method in which they pull their burning pieces out of the kiln and plunge them into a bin full of combustible materials.

FRIDAY
Piers Morgan's Life Stories ITV, 9pm
While we can be relatively confident that Ewan McGregor won't be appearing on Piers Morgan's flagship interview show any time soon, it is fair to say that the former Mirror editor does have an uncanny knack for getting the biggest names in the worlds of film, TV, music, sport and entertainment to join him in his studio before baring all about their lives. This week's guest is no different: 1980s pop icon Boy George drops in, to talk about his long and illustrious career, and the fascinating life he has led alongside it. From his early childhood with a violent father and suicidal mother, to his global success with Culture Club - and the tensions which existed behind the scenes – it seems no subject is off-limits.




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BRAIN GYM No.415

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

15	17	5	20	15	17		2	16	18	14	20	15
	11		11		23	14		A	14			2
	10		2	16	4	16	2	20	11	10	17	10
10	4	11	15	23		2						4
	22		23		16		11		23			16
	2	14	17	24	20	15	7		20	15	26	10
4		1				21				17		11
13	15	20	24		6	15	10	4	9	23	20	
25			22		14			14			22	
14			19		17		16		3	23	17	24
23	12	12	23	17	5	15	25	15	3		5	
26			15		22		17		15		22	
13	14	14	3	22	15		10	4	25	23	2	8

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
R	S	H	V	N	K	L	I	T	B	D	C	O
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Q	Y	P	G	F	U	M	W	Z	E	A	X	J

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Fastener in the portal at church (5)
8. A room rearranged by us is romantic (7)
9 & 2Dn. Spirit apparatus even now not within the law (7,5)
10. It takes place in the seventies (5)
12. How confrontations are arranged (4,2,4)
15. By which a brother is dispatched (10)
18. In 'Faustus' a tangibly evil influence (5)
19. One broken chair in a hundred is antique (7)
21. Locksmiths (7)
22. The first person to follow the gist of the subject (5)

Down

1. Obvious quarrels, so they make accusations (10)
2. See 9 Across
3. Showing elegant style - the little bird has no end (4)
4. One of the first toys to cause annoyance (6)
5. It sounds a very short preface! (8)
6. Staff pet? It's far too malodorous (7)
11. Right-handed key (6,4)
13. Was instrumental in fixing the parts (8)
14. Cannons linked with assault (7)
16. Used to convey one in the hunt (6)
17. See 20 Down
20 & 17Dn. Chop up food for the sauce and do something grotesque (3,1,5)

1	2	3	4	5	6
7			8		
9				10	
		12	13		
15				16	
18			19	20	
21				22	

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Nick (5)
8. Infested (7)
9. Anger (7)
10. Anxiety (5)
12. Sparing (10)
15. Equivalent (10)
18. Adhere (5)
19. Defame (7)
21. Expand (7)
22. Regional (5)

Down

1. Inhibits bacteria (10)
2. Store (5)
3. Avoid (4)
4. Powerful (6)
5. Drover (8)
6. Liberty (7)
11. By merit (10)
13. Boaster (8)
9 Designation; 11 Duffers; 12 Their; 13 Scorch; 15 Writhe; 17 Learn; 18 Easiest; 20 Inconceivable; 22 Ego; 23 Lorgnette. Down: 2 Ice; 3 Eagle; 4 Elapse; 5 Twitter; 6 Contentment; 7 Intersect; 10 Suffocation; 11 Disclosed; 14 Cynical; 16 Terror; 19 Sheen; 21 Let.

Sudoku

5			3	1		
	1	7	2		8	9
9	7		4		2	
6		1	9			
	3			7	9	
	5		6	2		8
	2	9		8		
1			4	6		7
	6		8			3

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	6	2	4	5	8	3	7	1
8	3	7	2	5	1	9	5	4
5	1	4	3	9	7	2	6	8
7	8	5	1	3	2	6	4	9
1	4	9	7	8	6	5	3	2
6	2	3	5	4	9	8	1	7
3	9	8	6	7	4	1	2	5
2	7	8	6	1	5	4	9	3
4	5	1	9	2	3	7	8	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Telegraph; 8 Roe; 9 Latest issue; 11 Platoon; 12 Aware; 13 Safari; 15 Period; 17 Excel; 18 Lullaby; 20 Electric eel; 22 Ear; 23 Easter egg. Down: 2 Era; 3 Gusto; 4 Aliens; 5 Hostage; 6 Prevaricate; 7 Yesterday; 10 Traffickers; 11 Possessed; 14 Relieve; 16 Plates; 19 Loire; 21 Erg. QUICK - Across: 1 Different; 8 Own; 9 Designation; 11 Duffers; 12 Their; 13 Scorch; 15 Writhe; 17 Learn; 18 Easiest; 20 Inconceivable; 22 Ego; 23 Lorgnette. Down: 2 Ice; 3 Eagle; 4 Elapse; 5 Twitter; 6 Contentment; 7 Intersect; 10 Suffocation; 11 Disclosed; 14 Cynical; 16 Terror; 19 Sheen; 21 Let.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Who wrote All Quiet on the Western Front?
2. With Wimbledon, which championships form the tennis grand slam?
3. Who translated the New Testament into German in 1522?
4. What is the male hormone called?
5. How many arms does a starfish usually have?
6. In computing, what do the letters AI stand for?
7. Of what is malocclusion a defect?
8. Which TV programme devoted two editions to the business affairs of Terry Venables?
9. What is the official language of the New Caledonia island group?
10. Which George Eliot novel is subtitled A Study of Provincial Life?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Jordan; 2 TS Eliot; 3 Iowa; 4 Speed

of light; 5 John Smith House; 6 Junta;

7 John Cleese; 8 Untouchable; 9 Rowan;

10 Salisbury Plain.

Niner: MASCULINE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

67835 gives a profession,
459719 gives a second profession,
257319 gives a third profession.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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High life – Hong Kong's cloud-scraping skyline viewed from 428 metres high on Victoria Peak



Emperor Minh Mang's 19th century tomb in Hue



Ho Chi Minh stands tall in front of the colonial Hotel de Ville de Saigon



Ship shape – approaching Halong Bay

Good morning vibrant Vietnam!

GOOD night Halong Bay, good morning Hong Kong. Closing the curtains in one country and opening them in another is a special experience.

Particularly when it's your butler who's pulling the curtains and the windows open out on to your own private balcony. It's a tough life on a luxury cruise aboard the Silver Shadow.

My voyage began in Ho Chi Minh City – or Saigon, as the locals still call it. Arrive here and you're plunged into a hectic hive of activity. Bikes, heat, fish, bikes, rice, cars, more bikes, beer, dogs, bright lights, more bikes. Vietnam's largest city is a sharp contrast to the calm of a cruise ship.

Docked within a 20-minute walk or five-minute moped ride of Saigon's historic heart, an overnight stay provided just enough time to enjoy the town's excitement. More than 40 years after the scrambled American evacuation, the influence of the war remains strong, but is just one piece in a mesmerising jigsaw of ancient, colonial, communist and contemporary influences.

By Harry Leather

If it wasn't for the ceaseless heat and swarms of bikes, I could have been in a different century and continent around every corner. Leaving was a challenge. But thankfully a healthy dose of wining and dining helped ease the pain.

Even that evening's 'casual' dining at the pool bar and grill was spectacular – prime rib-eye steak and emperor-sized prawns grilled at our table on 400C lava rocks. Other nights included à la carte Italian La Terrazza, in-suite dining and the 400-seater main restaurant. And not once was my wine glass empty.

Some 215 nautical miles later and the curtains were opened in Nha Trang, where the south-east Asian sun burned away the early morning cloud to reveal a high-rise city and sand ringed by a row of green hills.

The lunchtime departure left enough time to see the ancient Cham Towers, mooch and munch grilled lobster on the beach. Here, as ever, the locals did a fine job of competing with the Silver Shadow's classy cookery. But not even the tastiest of pho or freshest

of lobster could compete with the star of the Silversea show – Le Champagne.

The Relais & Châteaux restaurant was the only onboard eatery where a cover charge was needed, but the mushroom cappuccino justified it alone.

Waking in industrial Chan May next morning was less spectacular. But thankfully the eyesore port served as a gateway to some of Vietnam's most historical towns.

I chose Hue and its Imperial City – another location where wildly different sections of Vietnam's modern history interact to make the town what it is today.

A mixture of Chinese-style temples, pagodas and palaces, the Imperial City is where Emperor Minh Mang entertained his hundreds of wives, mistresses and children in the 19th century.

Brutally, only around one in seven of the city's buildings survived the first few months of 1968 – when American forces fought a bloody and costly battle with the North Vietnamese – and the ongoing restoration work served as a reminder of the reconstruction effort needed across the country in the decades since the war.

Next stop Halong Bay. Furry green karst

islands poked through the shimmering blue water, which rippled as the wind broke through the humidity and teamed up with the sun to usher any clouds away.

As the rays shone down and we sailed through the lagoon-like sea, I felt like I was travelling back to a Jurassic world.

Finally we sailed 393 nautical miles to Hong Kong. While others enjoyed a sing-along and a 'British pub lunch', I spent the wet and windy final day at sea in the gym, the hot tub and the spa, before savouring a last six-course feast and a party. A few hours later and eggs benedict in front of the Hong Kong skyline killed any sign of a hangover.

There was just enough time to pop 428 metres up Victoria Peak and enjoy one of Asia's best cityscapes.

* Silversea's Silver Shadow departs on a 14-day voyage from Hong Kong to Singapore on October 8 2017. The voyage calls at Ha Long Bay; Chan May; Nha Trang; Ho Chi Minh City; Bangkok and Koh Samui before arriving in Singapore. Fares start from £4,550 per person based on double occupancy of the Vista Suite. Visit www.silversea.com or call 0844 251 0837.

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
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25
The Chronicle Thursday, February 9, 2017

Elegant ground floor apartment with lovely views

An elegant and impressive ground floor Grade II listed 1850s Victorian apartment, Flat 1, 6 Victoria Terrace, Walsall is for sale through Goodchilds Estate Agents at £275,000.

Set in the arboretum conservation area overlooking the lakes with many original features throughout, this beautiful Victorian Grade II listed converted building is located in a private cul-de-sac close to Walsall town centre.

Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hallway with Minton flooring, a stylish lounge with exposed floorboards, a bay window and an open fireplace, a modern fitted kitchen, a grand dining room with many original features, a feature fireplace and views across the Arboretum Lakes.

There are also two double bedrooms and a modern bathroom.

In addition the property also has a cellar with two rooms, one currently used as a bedroom and a further bathroom.

Outside the property has an attractive rear garden with patio area and a shared side entrance.

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	1		1
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	1		3
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Charlecote Rise, Hadley Heath, WV13

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	1	EPC D	

Essington Way, Wolverhampton WV1

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	1		3
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	1		2
	1	EPC C	

Bilston Lane, Willenhall WV13

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	2		2
	1	EPC F	

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AUCTION

	1		2
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	2		4
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	1	EPC D	



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NEW

	2		3
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INCENTIVE

	1		2
	2	EPC C	



Broad Lane, Essington WV11

Guide £100,000

AUCTION

	2		2
	1	EPC D	



Smithfield Road, Walsall WS3

Guide £90,000

AUCTION

	2		3
	1	EPC C	



Scarborough Road, Walsall WS2

Guide £95,000

AUCTION

	1		3
	1	EPC D	



Ringwood Avenue, Aldridge WS9

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	1		3
	1	EPC D	



Tintern Way, Bloxwich WS3

£550 PCM

	2		3
	1	EPC D	



West Street, Leamore WS3

£475 PCM

	2		2
	1	EPC D	



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WALSALL
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ENTRIES NOW INVITED FOR OUR NEXT AUCTION

at Aston Villa Football Ground



14 Elm Street, Chapel Ash
3 Bed Detached Dormer Bungalow
Guide: £49,000 - £54,000



17 Wilkinson Road, Moxley
3 Bedroom End Terraced House
Guide: £39,000 - £44,000



15d Genge Avenue, Lanesfield
3 Bedroom Detached House
Guide: £134,000 - £138,000



1 St Martins Close, Parkfields
2 Bedroom End Terraced House
Guide: £39,000 - £44,000



241 Coalway Road, Merryhill
2/3 Bedroom Dormer Bungalow
Guide: £48,000 - £53,000



46a & 46b Wolverhampton Street, Wednesbury
A Detached Property
Converted into Two Flats
Guide: £94,000 - £98,000



Please note charges may apply in addition to the purchase price on some lots
For a definition of Guide Price & Reserve price please refer to our catalogue or website
For the Energy Performance Rating of each property please refer to the legal pack, catalogue or website



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AUCTION

23rd February 2017
at Aston Villa Football Ground

29

The Chronicle Thursday, February 9, 2017



Viewings: Fri 10 Feb 11:45, Mon 13 Feb 11:45 & Wed 15 Feb 14:00

577 & 578 Parkfield Road, Wolverhampton

Two Vacant Freehold Terraced Properties, one of which has been converted into Two Self-Contained Flats (578a & 578b) and has Development Land to the Rear.

No. 577 ACCOMMODATION:

Ground Floor: Hall, Two Reception Rooms, Cellar, Kitchen, Shower Room/WC.

First Floor: Landing, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom/WC.

The property is in need of refurbishment works throughout.

No. 578 ACCOMMODATION (Converted into two flats):

No. 578a: Ground Floor - Hall, Reception Room, Lobby with Store, Bedroom, Kitchen, Rear Lobby, Shower Room/WC.

No. 578b: Ground Floor Entrance, First Floor Landing, Reception Room, Inner Hall with Shower Room/WC, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms.

Both properties benefit from having gardens to rear, gas fired central heating system and the majority of the windows are UPVC double glazed units.

PLANNING:

There is full planning consent for the erection of two detached dormer bungalows to the rear of No. 578 and details can be viewed via the legal pack or by contacting Wolverhampton City Council - Ref: 11/01047/FUL.

Guide: £99,000 plus

View: Fri 10 Feb 10:00 & Mon 13 Feb 10:00



15 The Rise, Great Barr
3 Bed Semi Detached House
Guide: £50,000 plus

View: Fri 10 Feb 11:00 & Mon 13 Feb 11:00



17 Wilkinson Road, Moxley
3 Bed End Terraced House
Guide: £39,000 - £44,000

View: Fri 10 Feb 13:15 & Mon 13 Feb 13:15



14 Elm Street, Chapel Ash
3 Bed Dormer Bungalow
Guide: £49,000 - £54,000

View: Fri 10 Feb 14:00 & Mon 13 Feb 14:00



1 St Martins Close, Parkfields
2 Bed End Terraced House
Guide: £39,000 - £44,000

View: Fri 10 Feb 15:45 & Mon 13 Feb 15:45



34 Lindley Avenue, Tipton
3 Bed Semi Detached House
Guide: £50,000 plus

View: Thurs 9 Feb 10:45 & Tues 14 Feb 15:30



7 Morton Close, Coventry
2 Bed End Terraced House
Guide: £50,000 plus

View: Fri 10 Feb 12:30 & Mon 13 Feb 12:30



167 New Hampton Road East, Wolverhampton
2 Bed Detached Bungalow
Guide: £39,000 - £44,000

View: Fri 10 Feb 15:00 & Mon 13 Feb 15:00



32 Castle Road, Tipton
Detached Property, Converted into Two Self-Contained Flats
Guide: £50,000 plus

FURTHER VIEWINGS TIMES AVAILABLE. PLEASE CONTACT US ON 0121 233 5046 FOR FURTHER DETAILS

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- Dining Room,
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- Three Bedrooms
- REFITTED Bathroom.
- Driveway
- Landscaped Gardens.
- Offered with NO CHAIN.

Offers Over \$140,000

**SUTTON COLDFIELD
BAKERS LANE**



- Stunning Semi Detached
- Through Hallway,
- Guest WC,
- REFITTED Kitchen,
- Generous Lounge Diner,
- Three Bedrooms
- REFITTED BATHROOM.
- Private Driveway,
- Garage
- Landscaped Gardens

\$309,950

SHARESHILL

RYLSTONE WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD



- Detached Family Home
- Entrance Hallway,
- Dining Room,
- Lounge, Guest W.C.
- Conservatory,
- Kitchen, Utility,
- Five Bedrooms, en-suit
- Family Bathroom
- Double Garage, Driveway
- Gardens

Offers Over \$335,000

ESSINGTON

UPPER SNEYD ROAD



- Detached Family Home
- Porch, Hallway
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Conservatory
- Kitchen, Utility
- 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Driveway, Garage
- Viewing Essential

Offers Over \$220,000

**WALSALL
SUTTON ROAD**



- Detached Character Property
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- Original Features
- Kitchen, Utility
- Driveway, Garage
- Large Rear Garden
- Viewing Recommended

Offers Over \$330,000

**BLOXWICH
CLOCKMILL PLACE**



- Town House
- Hallway,
- Lounge,
- Dining Room,
- Kitchen,
- Utility /Garden Room,
- Three Bedrooms
- Wetroom.
- Landscaped Gardens.
- Early viewing advised !!

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- Secure Entry System
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Double Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Communal Garden

\$70,000


FEATHERSTONE
OAKS DRIVE



- Detached Property
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Large Rear Garden
- 3 Bedrooms
- Original Features
- Garage, Car Port
- Family Bathroom
- block paved patio

Offers Over \$200,000

ESSINGTON
UPPER SNEYD ROAD



- Detached Family Home
- Porch, Hallway
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Conservatory
- Kitchen, Utility
- 3 Bedrooms

Offers Over \$220,000

REDUCED
WILLENHALL
WOOD LANE CLOSE



- Dormer Bungalow
- Entrance Hallway
- Refitted Kitchen diner
- Lounge with Inglenook fireplace
- Orangery Room
- Three Bedroom

OFFERS OVER \$300,000

BLOXWICH
HARDEN ROAD



SSTC Similar Required

- Traditional Semi
- 3 Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Ground Floor
- Wet Room
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Garage

\$149,950

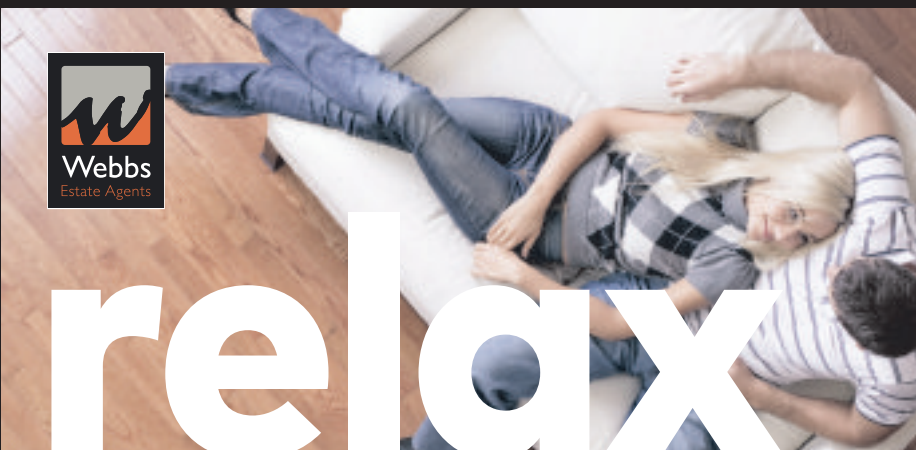
WALSALL
WINDRUSH CLOSE



SSTC Similar Required

- Semi Detached
- Through hallway
- Kitchen
- Lounge diner
- Guest WC
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gardens

OFFERS OVER \$140,000



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\$184,950

WALSALL
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- Ground Floor
- Hallway
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Parking
- Viewing

\$44,950 40% Shared

WALSALL
BENTLEY DRIVE



- Spacious Semi Property
- Entrance Hallway, Lounge
- Dining Room, Kitchen, Shower Room
- Two Bedrooms

\$120,000

WILLENHALL
BAYNTON ROAD



SSTC Similar Required

- 3 Bed Semi
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Garage
- Gardens
- Viewing Recommended

\$130,000 Offers Over

RUSHALL
ROUGH BROOK ROAD



SSTC Similar Required

- Entrance hall,
- Kitchen,
- Lounge,
- Guest WC.
- Two Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom.
- Driveway
- Enclosed Garden

\$129,950

WALSALL
CASTLE ROAD



SSTC Similar Required

- DETACHED
- DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS FAMILY HOME
- THREE RECEPTION ROOMS
- OVERLOOKING OPEN FIELDS

\$265,000



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£200,000	£2400 (inc vat)	£1800 (inc vat)	£1200 (inc vat)	50%
£250,000	£3000 (inc vat)	£2250 (inc vat)	£1500 (inc vat)	50%
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£380,000

Victoria Terrace, Walsall

- Victorian Apartment
- Ground Floor
- Lounge with Open Fireplace
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- Two Double Bedrooms
- Refitted Bathroom
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- EPC - E

£275,000

No Chain

Water Reed Grove, Leamore

- Superbly Presented Modern Town House
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge/Diner
- Guest Bedroom
- EPC - B

£140,000

NEW

Bramcote Way, Rushall

- Superb End Town House
- Views over Parkland
- Driveway for Two Cars
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge/Diner
- Two Double Bedrooms
- En-Suite to Master
- Reputable Schools Nearby
- EPC - B

£140,000

Mulberry Place, Dudley Fields

- NEW BUILD
- Three Bedroom Detached
- Entrance Hall
- Kitchen/Diner
- Lounge
- Downstairs WC
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing

£138,000

REDUCED

Harrison Street, Bloxwich

- Traditional Semi-Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- EPC - E

£125,000

NEW

Walton Heath, Turnberry Estate

- Detached Family Home
- Two Reception Rooms
- Solid Oak Kitchen
- Four Generous Bedrooms
- En-Suite Bathroom
- Newly Fitted A Rated Windows
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- Popular Turnberry Development
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- EPC - D

£275,000

Waters Keep, Leamore

- Light and Airy Lounge
- Spacious Kitchen / Diner
- Downstairs W.C
- Rear French Doors
- Three Spacious Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom

From £136,500

Harrison Street, Bloxwich

- Immaculately Presented Period Property
- Refurbished Throughout
- Refitted Kitchen & Luxurious Bathroom
- Two Reception Rooms
- Three Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- EPC - D

£125,000

NEW

Glastonbury Crescent, Mossley

- Superbly Presented Three Bedroom Terrace
- Brand New Fitted Kitchen
- Luxurious New Bathroom
- New Carpets Throughout
- Lounge with New Fireplace
- Dining Room
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Parking Area
- Close to Abbey Primary School
- EPC - C

£110,000

No Chain

Hough Road, Walsall

- Superb Two Bedroom
- Ideal First Purchase
- Suitable Buy-to-Let
- Close to Local Amenities
- Within Easy Access of the M6 Motorway
- EPC - D

£120,000

No Chain

Star Close, Bentley

- Cash Buyers Only
- Well Presented Two Bedroom End Terrace
- Modern Decor
- Kitchen/Diner
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Gas Central Heating
- EPC - E

£92,000

Foster Street, Bloxwich

- Two Bedroom Victorian Terrace
- Built in 1904
- Two Reception Rooms
- Ground Floor WC
- Two Double Bedrooms
- EPC - E

£90,000

No Chain

West Street, Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Rear Garden
- Double Glazing
- EPC - E

Offers in Excess of £80,000

NEW

Pargeter Street, Birchills

- Two/Three Period Terrace
- Refitted Kitchen
- Lounge
- Bedroom Three/Reception Room
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Master with Fitted Sharp Wardrobes
- Ideal First Purchase or Buy-to-Let
- No Chain
- Viewing Essential
- EPC - TBC

OIEO £90000

No Chain

Little Station Street, Walsall

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- Town Centre Location
- Train Station Within Walking Distance
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- Lounge
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- Bathroom with Shower
- EPC - E

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<p>REEDSWOOD</p> <p>ROCHESTER CROFT Extended Three Bed Semi, Lounge, Conservatory, Playroom/Study, Modern Breakfast Kitchen, Luxury Shower Room, UPVC D/G & C/H, Detached Double Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden, Generous Corner Plot</p> <p>£174,995</p>	<p>FALLINGS PARK</p> <p>CANNOCK ROAD, W'TON Three Bedroom Detached, Spacious Lounge/Diner, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Guest W.C., Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden</p> <p>£145,000</p>	<p>COPPICE FARM</p> <p>KINGTON CLOSE, WILLENHALL Two Bedroom Semi Detached, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking, Popular Cul-De-Sac Location</p> <p>£140,000</p>	<p>WILLENHALL</p> <p>PRIMARY CLOSE, WILLENHALL New Build Home, Two Bedroom Semi Detached, Spacious Lounge/Diner, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Guest W.C., Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Front & Rear Garden, Off Road Parking, Viewing Encouraged</p> <p>£134,995</p>	<p>COALPOOL</p> <p>ALDERLEY CRESCENT, WALSALL Modern Two Bed Semi, Spacious Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Ample Driveway Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden, Ideal F.T.B or B.T.L</p> <p>£110,000</p>	<p>WILLENHALL</p> <p>TEMPLE ROAD, WILLENHALL Two Bedroom End Terrace, Lounge, Dining Room, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Rear Yard, Recently Modernised, Ideal F.T.B - Viewing Advised!</p> <p>£99,995</p>	<p>WILLENHALL</p> <p>VICTORIA STREET, WILLENHALL Two Bed Mid Terrace, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Loft Room, Modern Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden, Great F.T.B or B.T.L</p> <p>£90,000</p>	<p>WILLENHALL</p> <p>HALL STREET, WILLENHALL One Bed First Floor Flat, Spacious Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Modern Fitted Bathroom, D/Glazing, Economy 7 Heating, Allocated Off Road Parking, Close To Willenhall Centre, Ideal BTL</p> <p>£65,000</p>
<p>COPPICE FARM</p> <p>HIGHMOOR CL, WILLENHALL Extended Four Bed Detached Having Ground Floor W.C., Lounge, Refitted Breakfast Kitchen, Dining Room, Conservatory, Master With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, D/G, C/H, Garage & Driveway</p> <p>£260,000 O.I.E.O</p>	<p>WILLENHALL</p> <p>YALE ROAD, WILLENHALL Extended Three Bed Detached Home, Spacious Lounge, Dining Room, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Conservatory, En-Suite To Master, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden, Must View!</p> <p>£185,000</p>	<p>COPPICE FARM</p> <p>REDWOOD WAY, WILLENHALL Extended Four Bed Semi, Spacious Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Extensive Off Road Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden, Viewing Strongly Advised</p> <p>£163,000</p>	<p>WILLENHALL</p> <p>CLARKS LANE, WILLENHALL Three Bed Semi Detached Having Entrance Porch, Hallway, Through Lounge/Diner, Extended Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Utility Area And Ground Floor Family Shower Room With W.C., GCH D/G & Off Road Parking</p> <p>£159,995</p>	<p>NEW INVENTION</p> <p>SQUIRES GROVE, WILLENHALL Three Bed End Townhouse, Spacious Lounge, Kitchen/Diner Open Plan To Orangery, Guest W.C., En-Suite To Master, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking, Viewing Essential</p> <p>£155,000</p>	<p>BENTLEY</p> <p>OVERDALE DRIVE, WILLENHALL Three Bedroom Semi Detached, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Shower Room, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking, Must View!</p> <p>£150,000</p>	<p>BENTLEY</p> <p>YORK AVENUE, WILLENHALL Three Bed Semi Detached, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking, Viewing Advised</p> <p>£150,000</p>	<p>NEW INVENTION</p> <p>MOORE ROAD, WILLENHALL Two Bedroom Semi Detached, Lounge, 21ft Modern Kitchen/Diner, Utility Area / Ground Floor W.C., Modern Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Extensive Off Road Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden, Viewing Highly Advised!</p> <p>£120,000</p>

Willenhall 01902 606595

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Latest addition to Ford's luxury spin-off brand

By Simon Davis

The Kuga Vignale is the fourth car to be released under Ford's new flagship brand, following the Mondeo Vignale, the S-Max Vignale and the new Edge Vignale.

In an attempt to move the C-segment SUV towards the more premium end of the market, Ford has plied the Kuga Vignale with a number of new features, and a higher level of standard equipment – including the latest Sync 3 infotainment system.

There are four engine options available with the new Kuga Vignale – two petrols and two diesels. Ford's 1.5-litre EcoBoost petrol engine can be specified with either 148bhp or 180bhp, while the 2.0-litre TDCi diesel is available with 148bhp or 178bhp. Our test car was fitted with the more powerful diesel unit, which was paired with Ford's Powershift automatic transmission and all-wheel drive.

The Vignale makeover has added numerous features to the Kuga's exterior – including chintzy 19-inch polished alloy wheels, plenty of chrome, and Vignale's signature hexagonal grille.

The Kuga's cabin has also been worked on. The seats have been upholstered in quilted leather, and there's plenty of leather around the dashboard and door panels. In our test car, the seats were finished in Ford's signature Cashmere colour – a sort of light cream shade – which looked very smart indeed. There are still a couple of noticeable cheap plastics that can be seen but on the whole, the Kuga's interior works nicely from an aesthetic point of view.

Comfort-wise, the Kuga Vignale won't give you many reasons to moan. The quilted leather seats are comfortable, and offer plenty of adjustability to make finding the correct driving position a breeze.

The Kuga Vignale's five-seat layout offers plenty of room for passengers in both the front and the back. Headspace is plentiful throughout the cabin, and rear passengers won't feel shortchanged when it comes to legroom. In terms of boot space, the Kuga Vignale manages a decent 406 litres of storage capacity. Folding the rear seats down will extend this to 1,603 litres. As part of the Vignale treatment, Ford has also given the Kuga a hands-free tailgate.

Dynamically, the Kuga offers a pleasing drive. It's not the most exciting driving experience in the world, but it has plenty of grip through the corners and the steering is well weighted and provides a good amount of feedback. Out on the motorway, the Kuga Vignale makes for a rather fantastic mile cruncher. Road and wind noise aren't terribly intrusive, and the 2.0-litre diesel engine accelerates smoothly and fairly quietly.

While the Kuga isn't exactly a small car, its size shouldn't prove to be too much of a problem when it comes to driving in an urban environment. Thanks to decent visibility out of the cabin and the addition of Ford's Perpendicular Parking system – which actually parks the car for you – you should never have too much trouble fitting the Kuga into a space.

Prices for the Kuga Vignale begin at £30,795 – and for that you get a large amount of kit for your money. Ford throws in its new Sync 3 infotainment system as standard, which incorporates satellite navigation, Apple Car Play and Android Auto, DAB radio, and Bluetooth connectivity to name a few features.



The Vignale makeover has added numerous features to the Kuga's exterior

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Enjoy Acorn Ford's massive savings

Commercial feature

If you'd love to own a new Ford, it's a marriage made in heaven. From Friday February 10 through until Valentine's Day the following Tuesday, Acorn Ford has a potential saving of over £5,000 on their range of new Fords waiting just for you.

It's part of Acorn's '17-Plate Sale Event' that's being held for the five days of the Valentine's Weekend at their Cannock Road showroom in Burntwood.

And with the tax man looking to increase your road tax come April 1, this is one date you don't want to forget.

An Appointment Needed

It's bound to be popular, so to be in line for this unique savings proposal, you must phone first on the dedicated hotline – 07759 966 386. Without an appointment, you will be disappointed.

There are a host of special one-off offers that include no deposit and 0% APR finance, all there to give massive savings for Acorn customers.

There is up to a £4,000 manufacturer deposit contribution along with a special extra, on the day, £500 saving. You will get your first two services free and free MOTs for the next 10 years, a free Diamondbright Paint Protection bodywork coating is included, along with two free valet services every year for three years.

With these fantastic Valentine's weekend presents just waiting to be unwrapped, why not consider coming along and looking at the all-new Ford Kuga SUV with its intelligent all-wheel drive system, the active city stop



The team at Acorn Ford

system which automatically applies the brakes at low speed, and the innovative Ford SYNC 2 with voice control and eight inch touchscreen that gives you hands-free control of your music, calls and much more. Packed full of many more user-friendly features, the Ford Kuga takes sports utility vehicle styling and technology to a whole new level.

Acorn Ford also has the energy and excitement of the ST-Line for you to test drive, and with the same '17-Plate Sale Event' savings.

The ST-Line expression of sports inspired design is the ultimate that can be found in a Ford. It's has distinctive alloys, striking body-styling kits, unique badging and a range of purpose-made features and styling details so that the look of your Fiesta, Focus or Mondeo can be beautifully enhanced.

Five Days of Fantastic Savings

For these five days only, Acorn Ford will be reducing prices across the full range of



Get a fantastic deal with a potential £5,000 saving on a range of new Fords

vehicles, just for the event. These savings are so substantial that the company directors themselves will personally sign off each of the amazing value deals on offer.

Along with these lovely Valentine's Day weekend offers, Acorn Ford is still open for their first-class repairs and servicing. Specially trained technicians know a Ford car inside out

and will quickly service or repair your car and get you back on the road.

As we all know, Valentine's Day is February 14. But this special Valentine's Day event is lasting the whole weekend, from Friday through to Tuesday, February 14. Call the hotline number: 07759 966 386 without delay so that when it comes to answering the

question; "Do you want a new Ford?" you can quickly say "I do!"

● Acorn Ford is in Cannock Road, Chase Terrace, Burntwood, WS7 1JS. For general enquiries, call 01543 685 656.

For more information look on their website www.acorn-group.co.uk

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THE ACORN
FORD**

Valentine's WEEKEND

**MASSIVE
NEW 17 REG
SALE**

FRIDAY 10TH - TUESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2017



**ORDER YOUR NEW 17 REG FORD
AT THE EVENT**

Don't miss out on the amazing value offers available at this event, call us to book your appointment on the

Event Hotline: 07759 966386

Join us for five days of amazing offers such as **big savings,** **no deposit, 0% APR finance***, deposit contributions of up to **£4000**, an extra **£500 off** and a package of free-of-charge extras **worth up to £5839****

Free of charge extras**	YOU SAVE**
First 2 services Free†	£340
Free Diamondbrite Paint Protection	£299
Free 10 Years MOT*	£400
Free 2 x Valets per year for 3 years	£300
An EXTRA £500 off	£500
Up to £4000 deposit contribution*	£4000
Total	£5839



**You'll just love
our offers...**



Acorn Ford

Cannock Road, Burntwood, WS7 1JS Tel: **01543 685656** www.acorn-group.co.uk

Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) Highest FORD All New Focus 2.3 EcoBoost (350PS) With Stop/Start - 5 Door, M6: Urban 28.2 (10.0), Extra Urban 44.86 (6.3), Combined 36.7 (7.7), CO₂ emissions 175(g/km). Lowest: FORD All New Focus 1.5 Duratorq TDCi (105PS) With Stop/Start - 5 Door, M6: urban 74.3 (3.8), extra urban 91.1 (3.1), combined 83.1 (3.4). Official CO₂ emission 88g/km. The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results (EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008), are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience. **Offer excludes Ka+ Studio. †Taken from average retail prices of products and services across the range. ‡Free servicing based on Manufacturer's standard recommended service intervals. Offers available between 10.02.17 - 14.02.17 inclusive. Subject to status. T&Cs apply. *Finance subject to status. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Freeport Ford Credit. Terms and conditions apply, please ask for full details. Vehicles shown for illustration purposes only. This supersedes all previously advertised manufacturer's promotions. Information correct at time of publication E&OE.



Valentine weekend 17-plate event

Commercial feature

Acorn Kia has it all arranged for a date that you will really remember. A special event, with a bumper number of gift-wrapped goodies that could see you driving a brand-new Kia.

Following on from the amazing offers of their recent Black Friday event, Acorn Kia are again unwrapping a host of savings that will make you go weak at the knees. And with the tax man's increases in vehicle excise duty on new cars kicking in on April 1, there has never been a better time to buy a new Kia.

An Appointment Needed

Kia is an award-winning car maker, where their standards of reliability and durability have been recognised across the world. But to be in with the opportunity to come along for yourself and enjoy these special Valentine's offers, you must phone first and book an appointment on the dedicated hotline – 07759 966 386. Without an appointment, you will be disappointed.

Acorn Kia is giving you an amazing range of extra incentives during the Valentine's weekend sale event, such as three free services, free MOTs for 10 years, two free valet cleans each year for the next three years and a free Diamondbright Paint Protection Pack. Deals include no deposit and 0% APR finance.

There'll be a deposit contribution of up to £1,500 from Kia off the price of a new car, and a once-only, on the day additional £500 reduction.

And don't forget, with Kia you get their fantastic seven-year warranty that is unmatched by other manufacturers that gives you peace of mind driving once you have your



The team at Acorn Kia

car out on the road. All-in-all, these savings and offers add up to more than £3,000 worth of discounts for you when purchasing a new Kia at Acorn Kia.

All-New Rio and Sportage

One car to look at is the new Kia Rio. This pleasing supermini has just been re-launched with a stylishly revamped, sculptured, sporty look and a whole range of improved specifications. It does a fantastic 78.5 miles to the gallon, and has a number of added benefits, like its lane departure warning system and its autonomous emergency braking system that once upon a time you'd only expect in bigger cars.

Or, you could consider the all-new strikingly sporty, Sportage SUV. Depending on the model, it's full of great, new smart features such as the speed limited information function to keep you to the speed limits, the reversing camera system and autonomous emergency



Make an appointment to get a special Valentine offer on a range of Kia cars

braking. This very much in demand renowned SUV has a 5-star Euro NCAP rating for safety that is always reassuring when travelling with the family.

Acorn Kia has built up a fine reputation over the years for its top quality after sales service. They have highly trained technicians on hand

with all the needed knowledge and the latest equipment to deal with any issue so that you can keep you on the move.

The Valentine weekend sale event begins on Friday 10 and runs right through until Valentine's Day itself on Tuesday, February 14. It's a date that you'll want to keep, and one

that may stay fixed in your mind for many a year to come.

● Acorn Kia is in Cannock Road, Chase Terrace, Burntwood. WS7 1JS. Tel: 01543 685 656. Or look on their website www.acorn-group.co.uk

The hotline number is: 07759 966 386.

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE ACORN KIA



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Don't miss out on the amazing value offers available at this event, call us to book your appointment on the Event Hotline: 07759 966386

Valentine's

WEEKEND

FRIDAY 10TH - TUESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2017

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Free of charge extras ^{**}	YOU SAVE ^{^^}
3 Free Services [†]	£299
Free Diamondbrite Paint Protection	£299
Free 10 Years MOT [^]	£400
Free 2 x Valets per year for 3 years	£300
An EXTRA £500 off	£500
Up to £1500 deposit contribution*	£1500
Total	£3298

You'll just love our offers...



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The Power to Surprise

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Kia range of vehicles are between Urban: 29.1 (9.7) – 80.7 (3.5), Extra-Urban: 46.3 (6.1) – 94.2 (3.0) and Combined: 38.2 (7.4) – 88.3 (3.2). The official CO2 emissions for the Kia range of vehicles are between 86 – 189g/km. [†]Offer excludes Picanto 1 Air, Rio 1 Air, Venga 1 and Cee'd 1 Air. ^{**}Taken from average retail prices of products and services across the range. ^{††}Years free servicing based on an annual mileage of 10,000 miles and is limited to three services conducted in line with KIA's servicing guidelines. ^{†††}Finance available subject to credit acceptance to UK residents aged 18 or over. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Terms and conditions apply. Offer may be varied, withdrawn or extended at any time. Finance provided by KIA Financial Services. KIA dealers are licensed credit brokers but independent of KIA Financial Services. Available between 10.02.17 – 14.02.17 inclusive. Subject to status. T&Cs apply. Private customer registrations only, excluding Personal Contract Hire. 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. For full terms and exclusions visit www.kia.co.uk. We are a credit broker (not a lender) for the purposes of this financial promotion and can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers and may receive a commission from them for the introduction.

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10 Personals

personal

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Box Number P20702, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

highways england

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984-SECTION 14(1)(a) THE M6 MOTORWAY (JUNCTION 9, SLIP ROADS) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) has made an Order on the M6 Motorway, in the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall, to allow bridge expansion joint renewal works to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to close the slip roads leading- a) to the northbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 9; and b) from the northbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 9.

The work will be carried out overnight between 21:00 hours and 06:00 hours and is expected to start at on Monday 13 February 2017 and continue for 12 nights. The Order will come into force on 10 February 2017.

Vehicles being used for police, fire brigade, ambulance or traffic officer purposes and vehicles being used in connection with the works, or for winter maintenance purposes, will be exempt from the closure.

Diversion routes via alternative junctions of the M6 will be signed.

For further information please contact Arasu Gurusamy on 0300 470 3038.

Karen Eustace, an officer in Highways England Company Limited. Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) registered office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ. A Company registered in England and Wales.

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14(1)(a) THE M6 AND M54 MOTORWAYS (M6 JUNCTION 10 TO JUNCTION 11, STAFFORDSHIRE) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) has made an Order on the M6 and M54 Motorways, in the County of Staffordshire, to allow pavement renewal, electronic traffic detector system repair works, cyclical maintenance, resurfacing, road marking works and general maintenance works to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to close, at different times,-

- (1) the northbound carriageway of the M6 from its junction with the exit slip road at Junction 10, to its junction with the entry slip road at Junction 11;
- (2) the southbound carriageway of the M6 from its junction with the exit slip road at Junction 11, to its junction with the entry slip road at Junction 10;
- (3) the eastbound carriageway of the M54 from its junction with the exit slip road at Junction 1, to its junction with the southbound carriageway of the M6 (M6 Junction 10a); and
- (4) the slip roads leading-
 - (a) to the northbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 10;
 - (b) from the northbound carriageway of the M6 to M54 Junction 1;
 - (c) to and from the northbound carriageway of the M6 to Hilton Park Motorway Service Area (north of Junction 10)
 - (d) to the southbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 11;
 - (e) from the southbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 10; and
 - (f) to and from the southbound carriageway of the M6 to Hilton Park Motorway Service Area.

The work will be carried out overnight between 22:00 hours and 06:00 hours and is expected to start on Monday 13 February 2017 and continue for twelve nights. The Order will come into force on 10 February 2017.

Vehicles being used for police, fire brigade, ambulance or traffic officer purposes and vehicles being used in connection with the works or for winter maintenance purposes, will be exempt from the closures.

For more information please contact Kunal Shah on 0300 470 3637.

Karen Eustace, an Officer in Highways England Company Limited. Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) registered office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ. A Company registered in England and Wales.

Walsall Council, Planning, Engineering and Transportation

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) act 1990 Development Management Procedure Order 2015 (as amended)

The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning. Representations can be made online, email: planning@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darvall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG. Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice. Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

16/1899 MR GERARD LEIGHTON FOR: CHANGE OF USE FROM AN EXISTING RETAIL TO OFFICE USE. AT: 30, HIGH STREET, ALDRIDGE, WALSALL, WS9 8LZ

17/0122 ACCESS COMPLETE PROPERTY LTD FOR: ERECTION OF 3 DETACHED 2 BED BUNGALOWS ADJOINING PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY BRO36. AT: FORMER 7, PAULS OFFICE, BROWN HILLS, WALSALL, WS8 7DE

17/0084 PLAYLAND HOLDINGS LTD FOR: CHANGE OF USE FROM AMUSEMENT CENTRE TO RETAIL USE. AT: 161, HIGH STREET, BLOXWICH, WALSALL, WS3 3LG

17/0059 WALSALL HOUSING GROUP FOR: PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF EXTERNALLY APPLIED INSULATION WITH RENDER FINISH AND INFILLING OF THE ENTRANCE BALCONIES ON THE EASTERN ELEVATION AT 1-22 AND 23-42 WAREWELL CLOSE. AT: 1-22 AND 23-42, WAREWELL CLOSE, WALSALL, WS1 2AE

16/1864 MR RESHAM GREVAL FOR: PROPOSED DETACHED DOUBLE GARAGE TO FRONT ADJACENT TO PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY NDA83. AT: 34, BROOK MEADOW ROAD, SHELFIELD, WALSALL, WS4 1TL



The Kingsmead School pupil, far left, shows off his podium medal



Thumbs up from Josh Hiatt after a podium finish



Josh is to mount a BSB series challenge this year after deciding to make the switch



Josh stormed back on to the podium during round seven at red Lodge

Josh hitting the Hiatts after run of misfortune

THE future should look a lot brighter for rider Josh Hiatt after finishing a season he would probably rather forget.

The 14-year-old suffered numerous mechanical failures competing in the FAB-Racing Metrakit 70 class.

Early promise was blighted by bike problems as the team, including his father Nigel, struggled to work out why the engine and gears kept failing.

But once the Metrakit GP70 was up and purring, the Heath Hayes teenager showed why he is one for the future by climbing back on the podium despite a severe lack of track time.

The eight-round series, mainly contested on go-karting tracks around the UK, ended with a second trip to Red Lodge before the final races at Mallory Park – a full race circuit used by the top British Superbike riders.

Serious

It was on the big tracks that Josh, who attends Kingsmead School in Hednesford, really felt at home and gave his team serious food for thought over the 2017 campaign.

Nigel said: “We were back at Red Lodge for round seven and straight away he was on it, qualifying on pole.

“He came second in the first race and was just chuffed to bits to be back on the podium, especially after all the bike issues he’d had to deal with during the season.

“Everything looked like it was going down the pan until Red Lodge when finally it came together and he showed what he was capable of.

“He did particularly well because he had a bad start and had to fight his way back up to second again.”

But Josh’s favourite race was certainly the last as he tackled Mallory.

SPORTING FEATURE

By James Driver-Fisher

“Everything looked like it was going down the pan until Red Lodge when finally it came together.”

The Leicestershire track is one of the country’s most renowned circuits.

“The last race was his favourite because it was a proper track some of the BSB riders use, rather than a go-kart track like a lot of the others,” said Nigel.

“He qualified fifth and came home in fourth. He had got into third place but he was pipped at the line and missed out on the podium.

“His bike just wasn’t as quick as the others pulling out of the corners.

“He loved making the step up to the next level, competing on the bigger track,” his father added.

Red Lodge was a good circuit all year for Josh, who secured a third place during round two earlier in the year before mechanical problems began to surface.

Everything went pear-shaped during round three at Rowrah, in the Lake District, when problems on the 70cc bike ended in a ‘Did Not Finish’ and a non-starter for race two.

He was also running third in the second race at Llandudno in the wet when he came off, causing engine problems and first gear issues.

Nigel said: “We had high hopes for round five at Whittington Mill, Northampton, because it’s where Josh

practises most Tuesday nights. Unfortunately, we suffered gearbox and engine problems and spent the entire weekend stripping the bike to try and find the problem.

“We ended up doing no racing at all.

“Lydd in Kent was round six but yet again we had the same engine problems.

“This time we managed to sort it out, but Josh was off the pace a bit because he had been off the bike for so long.

“Things went worse when he came off the bike again and smashed it up a bit, as well as hurting his leg, but he was okay.

“He tried to do the second race but was in too much pain so we ended up with another DNF.”

Now Hiatt is revving up for a new challenge. He is making the step up to race in the a British Superbike support series this year after securing a ride in the British KTM Cup.

Supported

The youngster had options to return to the Metrakit series or join the Aprilia Championships.

The move from Josh, who has been supported by the Wigley twins during his burgeoning race career, is a move up from the FAB-Racing Metrakit 70 class he raced in last year.

Josh’s mother, Tracy, said: “The new bike has been purchased and he had a track day at Mallory Park.

“Josh loved the bike and got on well with it.”

Nigel said: “We’d like to thank Phil Turrell from Lower Road Service Centre, Hednesford, for providing us with tyres all season, which has saved us an absolute fortune.

“They cost us £130 a time and sometimes we can go through two sets a meeting, so his contribution has been absolutely brilliant.”

Hiatt is still after more sponsors, however. Anyone interested can call 07809 606248.



Testing went well for Josh before the start of an eventful Metrakit campaign



Josh on the bike he will be riding in the British Superbike support series this year



SPORTS DESK 01902 319531

CHRON.SPORT@EXPRESSANDSTAR.CO.UK

Hosts head for victory over Wood

Alvechurch 4 Walsall Wood 1
WOOD tasted defeat again, against the league leaders, but there was a sense of injustice.

A 2-1 scoreline would have been hard to take for Wood, but 4-1 – all the hosts' goals scored with headers – rubbed it in. Wood started brightly and took the lead just four minutes in. Rikki Bains hammered a header off the underside of the bar from a corner and Joey Butlin was first to react.

The lead lasted just a minute though, as from a right wing corner Connor Dears powered home a header. Two top drawer Adam Jenkins saves kept Wood in the game, but Paul Evans in the Alvechurch goal was called into action to push away a Butlin effort.

Evans was then forced at full stretch to push a 30-yard free-kick by Butlin around the post.

It was all-square at the break, but on 53 minutes a pinpoint ball by Ryan Winwood released Tom Turton into the right of the box, his low driven cross put behind by Adams to deny Danny Dubidat. But from the left wing corner Andy Parsons bulldozed a header home to put Church ahead.

Wood should have equalised on 65 minutes, but Butlin hit the post and the ball was scrambled clear. It proved the turning point as on 79 minutes the ball was moved quickly left to right across the face of the box and out to Jamie Ashmore. He crossed into the near post and substitute Mike Wardle headed home.

Five minutes later Turton crossed to the far post from wide left, the ever alert Wardle headed the ball back into the centre and Dubidat headed home number four to give the final score an extremely flattering look.

Next up for Wood is Shepshed Dynamo on Saturday.

Coach brace earns leaders a point in tough derby clash

Walsall 3 Bloxwich 3
BLOXWICH were left disappointed despite a hard-earned away point in this well-fought local derby on Saturday.

Bloxwich weathered a shaky start and managed to get the first goal through a Steve Mallows short corner. They continued to press but were left open at the back which allowed Walsall an inroad back into the match and they found an equaliser.

Bloxwich were on the back foot for the second half and numerous individual errors lead to Walsall getting back into the game quite comfortably.

Despite the heroic efforts of goal-keeper Joe Buck, Walsall took the lead.

Bloxwich levelled through a Mandeep Sandhar finish which was shortly cancelled out by another Walsall goal.

With only minutes left, coach Mallows scored another short corner to earn Bloxwich the draw.

Bloxwich will take heart in the fact that they still managed to fight back to earn a point in a very tough match, and stay top of the league.

Beech aims to pack punch on pro debut

WALSALL'S James Beech wants to keep professional boxing in the family when he makes his debut under the MTK Birmingham banner this weekend.

The teenager first punches for pay at the Tudor Grange Leisure Centre in Solihull on Saturday.

The 19-year-old super bantamweight has signed a three-year management deal with MTK, who have re-named themselves from MGM.

The 'MTK' refers to the 'Mack the Knife' nickname of Matthew Macklin, the three-time world title challenger who launched the boxing stable from the Tudor Grange. Beech is a second-generation fighter, with dad Jimmy having laced on the gloves for 31 pro outings at lightweight between 1999 and 2008.

James Jnr is a graduate of Pleck Boxing Club, for whom he fought 80 times. He won 50, with two by TKO and has only ever been stopped once, in his first contest.

The painter and decorator now trains out of Great Wyrley Boxing Club having taken Peter Hickenbottom, another ex-pro and head coach of the gym, as his trainer. His pro journey begins with a four-round affair against the heavier Qasim Hussain. Beech will be spurred on by around 200 fans from his hometown.

He said: "I've been training harder for this one, with a lot of extra sessions focussed on strength and conditioning."

"I don't really want to hang about, though, I'm looking to get a few learning fights under my belt and then step up the distance. By the end of next year, I want to be a Midlands champion."

Tickets are still available for the show, which MTK is staging in conjunction with promoter Sam Kynoch. They are £30 and £60 ringside. For more information, call 07398 772828.

X MARCS SPOT OF LATEST WIN

Walsall 2 Northampton Town 1
IT'S often said that in football, you make your own luck.

And that proved to be the case at the Banks's Stadium as Walsall a crucial three points against Northampton.

But the game will be remembered mainly for a 95th-minute penalty miss from Cobblers' striker Marc Richards, writes Joe Masi. Skipper Adam Chambers brought down Richards, but the striker, in front of 941 away supporters, spectacularly ballooned the ball over.

On a heavy pitch, both teams struggled to move the ball with any real zip or tempo. And that meant clear-cut chances proved non-existent.

It took an individual error from Neil Etheridge for the visitors to get their noses in front.

A deep free-kick delivered into the box looked to be routine for the keeper. But the Philippines international dropped the delivery at the feet of John-Joe O'Toole, who gladly prodded home from close range.

Flowing
Walsall, following their midweek trip to Millwall, looked jaded.

But that all changed as they gave it one final push to earn a third straight win on home turf.

They pulled level when Matt Preston slid in Florent Cuvelier's corner and they took the lead just six minutes later following a flowing move that started with Jason McCarthy galloping away down the right flank.

The wing-back delivered a cross which was met by Isaiah Osbourne – with Adam Smith producing a spectacular save to keep out the midfielder's volley. However, the ball fell kindly for Erhun Oztumer, who kept his composure to jink inside a defender and fire home his 11th of the campaign.

● Walsall have wished a speedy recovery to club legend Chris Marsh, who has suffered a brain haemorrhage.

The two-time Saddlers promotion winner made more than 400 appearances for the club and also played for Northampton and Wycombe.

Among the messages of support, Walsall FC's official Twitter account wrote: "Club wish Saddlers legend & former @ntfc star Chris Marsh a speedy recovery after learning of pre Xmas brain haemorrhage #getwellsoon"

Boxing

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Meese puts bottom side on all fours

Sporting Khalsa 4 Brocton 0
FOUR goals by Sporting Khalsa top scorer Dave Meese helped Ian Rowe's men to a comfortable victory against bottom-of-the-league Brocton.

The opening stages were flat and largely uninspiring, Craig Bannister and Brad Lawley had chances for Khalsa while at the other end Kenny Devoir shot a skidding effort past Tom Turner's far post.

It took after 40 minutes of unremarkable play before Khalsa drew blood, a Bannister free-kick was too hot for Brocton keeper Ashley Lunn to handle and Meese was on hand to tap home the opener from close range.

The visitors came out fighting in the second half and within four minutes of the restart Jack Edwards almost connected with a probing right wing cross from Nick Wellecomme.

Meese doubled the lead on 66 minutes, heading home from a Lawley cross on the left wing.

Ten minutes later he completed his hat-trick, chipping Lunn after the goal-keeper had come charging out of his defence, although he did almost manage to get back and claw it away off the line.

Lunn then produced a good save to deny Matt Martin, whose fizzing shot from range was parried onto the post.

But with five minutes to play, Meese got his fourth – and arguably best – hitting a shot on the turn in a crowded penalty area from a Johnny Haynes corner, to wrap up the scoring.

Improved heating system in pipeline

DARLASTON Town (1874) FC will improve their heating system thanks to a £33,000 grant.

Work on the project at the West Midlands Regional League Division One side's Bentley Leisure Pavilion ground is expected to be completed in May.

Money for the scheme was provided by Biffa Award, as part of the Landfill Communities Fund.

Club chairman Neil Chambers said: "When we reformed in 2013 the directors and committee set a five-year plan to develop the club both on and off the field."

"We are making significant progress in achieving that plan. When we signed the 25-year lease for Bentley Leisure Pavilion in September 2015 the committee and directors also agreed an improvement plan for the clubhouse and dressing rooms."

"We have already spent more than £20,000 and have further improvement plans in the pipeline."

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